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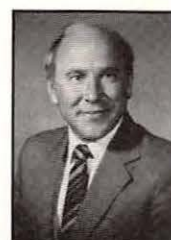
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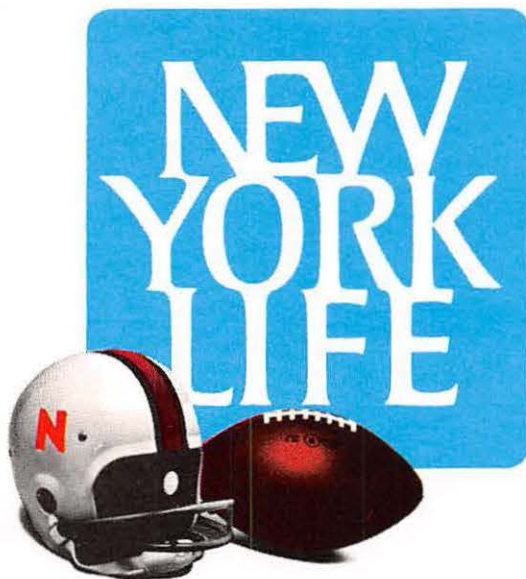
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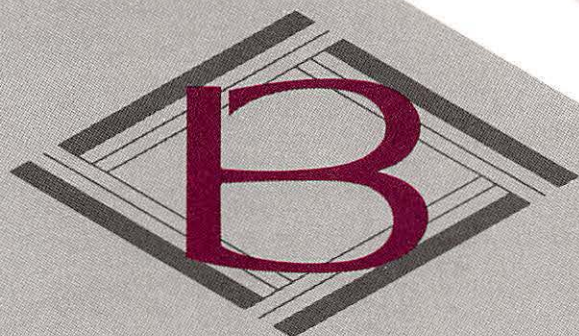
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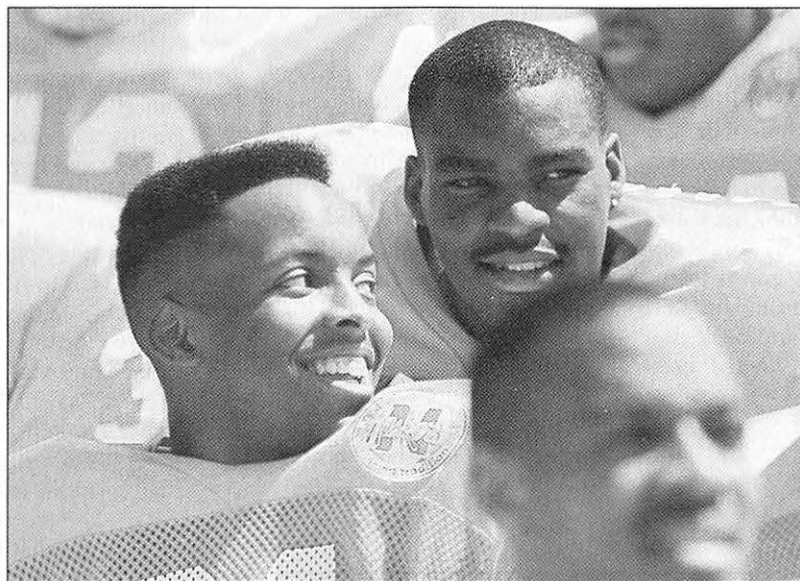
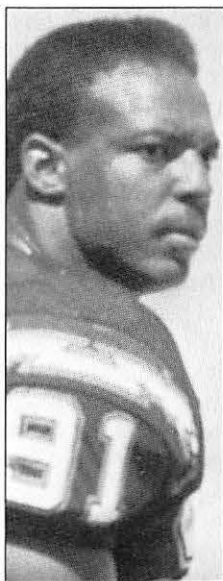
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On The Cover: Scott Baldwin could play a key role in Nebraska's rushing attack this season.
Photo by the late Kent Morgan Olsen during the Missouri game, 1990.

DOWN ON BUFFS

Dear Huskers:

Enclosed is a check for another year's subscription to *HUSKER ILLUSTRATED*. I've really enjoyed reading it the past three years. It's a good way for us out-of-staters to keep up on our favorite team.

Last year was somewhat disheartening, especially for us Coloradans who support Nebraska and have had to put up with some obnoxious CU fans. I'm tired of hearing about Wings McCartney and the Beefaloos. This year I believe CU will be in the bottom half of the Big Eight where they belong.

It looks like Oklahoma may be the team to beat this year. I think the Huskers can do it and win the Big Eight this year. We have the best coach in the nation with Tom Osborne and his staff is great. If we get the quarterback situation ironed out we'll have another great season.

Go Big Red!
Daniel A. Nosal
Castle Rock, Colo.

MEMORY LANE

Dear Huskers:

I have been a Cornhusker football fan since 1938 when I would pay a dime to get into the Knothole section on a Saturday. If I didn't have the dime, we would jump over the 48" Lattice-type fence at the south end. Once we got in, by pay or free, we could usually find a choice seat on the 40-45 yard line. Those truly were the good old days.

This past season, I took each centerfold in your magazine and put them on the wall. There was no doubt in anyone's mind who my team was in the ACC country. I know you will continue to put out great pictures in your magazine and stories about my team. Living in North Carolina, I have a difficult time locating stories about the greatest school.

I was a proud Cornhusker fan in 1938 during the Dana Bible and Biff Jones years, and will continue to be through the Osborne years.
Phil Pitney

Raleigh, N.C.

OKLAHOMA CONNECTION

Dear Huskers:

Ever since enrolling at the University of Nebraska in 1985, I have been an avid fan of the football program there. Before coming to school, football was to say the least, a passion reserved for Sunday afternoons sitting on a couch with a TV remote and a bag of chips. But after taking up a friend's offer on some free tickets, I became hooked on the Big Red. I started following every move Osborne and his troops made. While at school it was not hard to keep up with happenings, but now that I live in Oklahoma, there's not much to read unless they play either OU or OSU.

I used to have friends send me articles from the local papers, but it was old by the time I got it. Then I saw your magazine while back in Lincoln. Needless to say, I began subscribing and now I'm kept posted on all the latest. Nebraska officials should hand out subscription cards to *HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED* at graduation. I think that it would get a positive reaction from everyone. If people are like me, they don't know that there is a way to keep up with the Huskers when you don't live in Nebraska. Keep up the good work.

Steve Sullivan
Claremore, Okla.

CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Dear Huskers:

Football season is almost here and let me tell you I can't wait until the Huskers stomp repeating chances out of the Buffs and silence the critics in Sooner land.

I've been taking your magazine for about three years and I think you guys do an excellent job of keeping the Husker faithful up to date on what's going on in the athletic program. I really like the way you put out the weeklies so that we can get more focus on what happened and what's going to happen than is in the papers. But if I can, I want to make a suggestion to you.

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Each week you put in what happened in the game and a preview of the next opponent. That's good, but I think you should give maybe a page to what happened in other Big Eight games during the weekend. Getting the low down on a team before we play them is good for us bleacher scouts, but if we could be kept posted on how the other teams are doing and who they're going against each week, I think it would add so much. It wouldn't have to be a huge story or anything. That way when we go to play Kansas or Kansas State, we would already have a feel for how they've been doing.

I'll be looking for the added coverage. Thanks and keep up the good work.
Vince Rodderick
Allance, Neb.

NO JOKING

Dear Huskers:

With kick-off a little more than a month away, people are going to have to start looking at another teams when they want to make jokes. Last year Coach Osborne was unjustly ridiculed for his "supposed" easy preconference schedule and wasn't given the respect the program deserved in the rankings. Losses to Colorado, OU and Georgia Tech are probably the only things that are keeping the Huskers from being recognized as a great team this year.

I've seen about four polls where the Big Red isn't even in the top 15 and that's a crime. If Mickey Joseph is healthy and with Mike Petko anchoring the defense, Nebraska will be in the hunt for a national championship.

I don't know if Coach Osborne was trying to silence the critics, but this season's schedule is definitely tougher if you go by the rankings game. Utah State finished second in the Big West Conference while Colorado State is coming off a season that saw it finish 9-4. Add to that Washington, which has been picked as high as fourth and add an away game at Arizona State and you've got a pretty tough preconference schedule.

Maybe after the Huskers put a thumping on these schools the critics will start to look favorably towards Lincoln.

Let's get them Huskers.
Steve McNight
Omaha, Neb.

BETTING GUYS

Dear Huskers:

Last week during a vacation trip we make every year with a friend of mine and his family, we started an argument I need you to settle. This friend of mine from Colorado, yes he's a Buffaloe fan, and I, a die-hard Nebraska fan, got into an argument while bragging on our respective schools football programs. Among other nonsense that came out of his mouth, he tried to tell me that Tom Osborne has never won Coach of the Year honors in the Big Eight or in the nation. I think he said this out of either ignorance or because like most Buff

fans, he feels he can finally down grade other Big Eight schools without fearing the onslaught of about ten Colorado jokes.

I want you to print the answer in your magazine so that I can show him he doesn't know what he's talking about.

Along with 10 dollars we've bet that the loser has to sing the other's school song when our families go on vacation next summer.

Steve Riley
Lincoln, Neb.

Steve: Tell your friend to dust off his



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vocal chords and open that wallet. Osborne has been named Big Eight Coach of the Year not once but five times. He also received the same honor five times for District VII by the American Football Coaches Association. In 1983, Osborne received the national honor from *Football News*.

HUSKIE HOUNDING

Dear Huskers:

I made, what has quickly developed into the worst decision in my life when I moved from the safe confines of Omaha to Seattle, Wash. It's a good thing the money is pretty decent or else I'd be packing that U-Haul and making tracks for Big Red Country.

Ever since these "dog-like fans" realized they were playing Nebraska this season, I've heard nothing but endless needling in the office. But undaunted I wear my Husker red attire when in civilian attire and make sure I throw a few "you'll choke" rebuttals around. I know that the showdowns with Oklahoma and more recently Colorado have become very important in claiming the Big Eight crown, but this year I don't

care if we don't win any game as long as we pound the Huskies.

Not only would there be silence in the office other than my mouth, it would also give the Huskers a legitimate chance at an Orange Bowl bid and a national title.

Please don't let up on the Huskies coach and have a good season. I'll be watching when I can.

Tom Goodey
Seattle, Wash.

TOURNEY SLATED

In an attempt to establish a scholarship fund to benefit NU athletes, a Nebraska Alumni Celebrity Golf Tournament has been slated for Feb. 20-24, 1992 in Phoenix, Ariz.

The scholarship, which is under the direction of former Husker Rod Smith, will provide an opportunity for Nebraska Athletes to return to NU to complete undergraduate studies.

Among those who will be on hand for the tourney will be Danny Noonan, Marc Munford, Turner Gill, Tom Rathman, Tom Osborne and Bob Devaney.

Come out and support the NU Athletic Program.

Those interested in attending should contact the NU Athletic Department at 1-(800)-745-7580. Space is limited.

APOLOGIES ARE IN ORDER

HUSKER ILLUSTRATED would like to apologize for inadvertently leaving Rod Henkel's byline off of two stories in past issues.

Mike Babcock was identified as the writer of "Graduated Senior Checks Exit" in August's issue when Henkel was actually the writer. In the 1991 *College Football Yearbook*, Henkel's name was left off of his story "Thin Ranks."

We want to read your comments and answer your questions. Please send them to *Letters*, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb., 68501. Also, help us add to the subscriber involvement. Send photos (no polaroids) of your favorite Husker fan; he or she may just end up in print. ■

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- **Nebraska vs. Oklahoma State** – Oct. 11-13 (3-day/2 night Motorcoach Tour, 2 nights at the Wichita Hilton) **\$226**
- **Nebraska vs. Colorado** – Nov. 1-3 (3-day/2 night Motorcoach Tour, 2 nights at the Executive Tower Inn in Denver) **\$271**
- **Nebraska vs. Kansas** – Nov. 9 (1-day Motorcoach Tour) **\$88**

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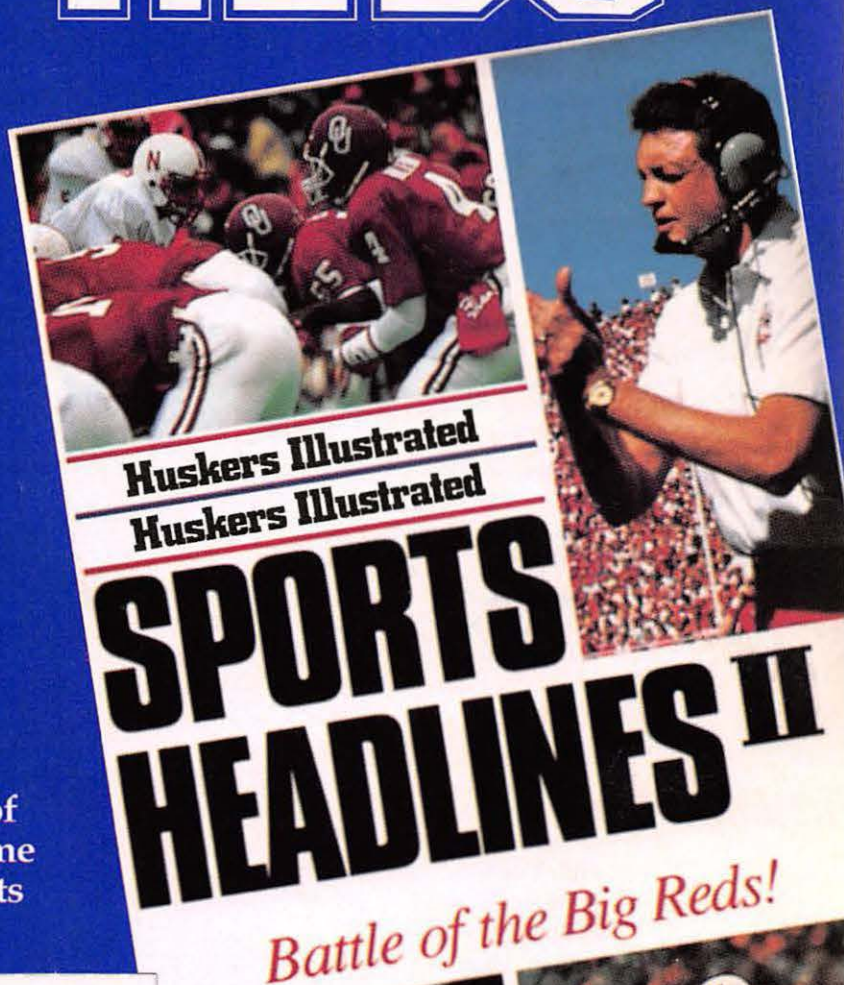
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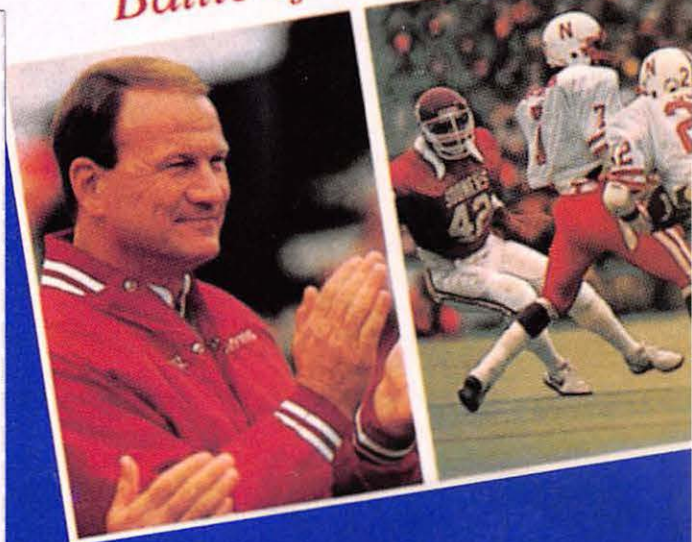
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1991 NEBRASKA CORNHUSKER FOOTBALL ROSTER

(*Number of letters earned)

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Birthday	Hometown	High School
4	* Achola, George	IB	5-10	195	Sr.	9/3/68	Omaha, Neb.	(Creighton Prep)
34	* Alberts, Trev	OLB	6-4	230	So.	8/8/70	Cedar Falls, Iowa	(Northern University)
48	* Anderson, Mike	ILB	6-2	230	So.	10/5/70	Grand Island, Neb.	
95	Armstrong, Gerald	TE	6-2	215	So.	7/22/71	Ponca, Neb.	
29	* Baldwin, Scott	FB	6-1	205	Jr.	9/1/69	Roselle, N.J.	(Clark)
39	Banks, Alvin	ILB	6-1	215	Sr.	5/13/69	East Moline, Ill.	(Hamilton)
23	Belser, Ernie	SS	5-11	220	So.	12/5/68	Plainfield, N.J.	(Bayonne)
27	Bell, Trumane	SE	6-4	205	Jr.	11/26/71	Chicago, Ill.	(Simeon)
13	* Bennett, Byron	PK	6-1	185	So.	12/7/70	Rowlett, Texas	(Lakeview Centennial)
76	** Boerboom, Brian	OT	6-7	285	Sr.	3/26/69	Colorado Springs, Colo.	(Doherty)
18	** Bostick, Jon	SE	6-2	185	Sr.	10/4/69	Bellevue, Wash.	(Interlake)
54	* Branch, Troy	ILB	6-0	225	So.	6/10/71	Camden, N.J.	
5	Brinkley, Lorenzo	CB	6-0	195	So.	9/27/71	St. Louis, Mo.	(Hazelwood Central)
94	** Brown, Brian	DT	6-6	275	Sr.	2/6/69	Indianola, Neb.	(Republican Valley)
21	* Brown, Derek	IB	5-9	185	So.	4/15/71	La Habra, Calif.	(Anaheim Servite)
8	** Byrd, Tyrone	FS	6-0	180	Jr.	2/12/70	Chandler, Ariz.	
31	* Carmer, Steve	SS	6-2	205	Jr.	8/26/69	Wahoo, Neb.	
55	* Chorney, Terris	C	6-1	275	Jr.	11/11/69	Ituna, Sask.	(Saskatoon Holy Cross)
45	Cisco, Zeke	SS	5-11	190	So.	8/23/70	Monroe, Mich.	
17	Collins, Sedric	CB	6-0	185	Fr.	10/15/71	Slidell, La.	
9	** Cotton, Curtis	CB	6-1	210	Sr.	10/15/69	Omaha, Neb.	(Central)
11	** Dowse, Mark	WB	6-0	175	Sr.	10/31/68	Broken Bow, Neb.	
28	* Duin, Darin	SE	6-1	200	Jr.	3/21/70	Fargo, N.D.	(South)
97	** Engelbert, Pat	NG	6-2	250	Sr.	10/19/68	Columbus, Neb.	(Scotus)
80	*** Garrett, Chris	TE	6-4	250	Sr.	11/17/68	Snyder, Texas	
43	* Geiken, Shane	ILB	6-2	220	Sr.	5/30/69	Gothenburg, Neb.	
37	* Glantz, Robert	FB	5-11	220	Sr.	7/1/68	Houston, Texas	(Dobie)
1	** Grant, Mike	QB	6-3	205	Sr.	1/26/70	Tampa, Fla.	(Brandon)
91	Gray, Lance	OLB	6-1	215	So.	6/14/70	Owego, N.Y.	(Free Academy)
15	* Haase, Tom	QB	6-0	185	Sr.	2/15/69	Aurora, Neb.	
38	Hawkins, Vincent	WB	5-11	210	Jr.	2/7/69	New Orleans, La.	(St. Augustine)
40	Heins, Mike	CB	5-10	185	So.	11/29/70	David City, Neb.	
93	** Hill, Travis	OLB	6-2	230	Jr.	10/3/69	Pearland, Texas	
74	Hilman, Matt	DT	6-3	255	Jr.	6/5/70	APD, N.Y.	
33	** Hughes, Tyrone	SE	5-10	175	Jr.	1/14/70	New Orleans, La.	(St. Augustine)
69	* Jensen, Dave	OG	6-4	285	Jr.	2/19/70	Omaha, Neb.	(Creighton Prep)
41	** Johnk, Tim	FB	5-11	215	Sr.	11/2/68	Schuyler, Neb.	
44	Jones, Calvin	IB	5-11	210	Fr.	11/27/70	Omaha, Neb.	(Central)
84	Jones, Donta	OLB	6-2	210	Fr.	8/27/72	La Plata, Md.	(Pomfret McDonough)
2	** Joseph, Mickey	QB	5-10	175	Sr.	3/5/68	Marrero, La.	(New Orleans Shaw)
14	Lang, Jeff	PK	5-10	185	So.	5/18/71	Papillion, Neb.	
42	Leader, David	OLB	6-2	205	Jr.	9/17/69	Bloomfield, Neb.	
3	** Legette, Tyrone	CB	5-10	180	Sr.	2/15/70	Columbia, S.C.	(Spring Valley)
85	* Leise, Daryl	TE	6-2	240	Sr.	5/15/69	Omaha, Neb.	(Creighton Prep)
26	** Lewis, Lance	FB	6-0	220	Jr.	3/27/70	Scott City, Kan.	
70	* Liewer, Jamie	DT	6-4	250	Jr.	12/4/69	Atkinson, Neb.	(West Holt)
77	Lundberg, Lance	OT	6-4	280	So.	8/15/70	Wausa, Neb.	
10	* McCant, Keithen	QB	6-2	205	Sr.	3/8/69	Grand Prairie, Texas	
7	McDuffy, Andre	FB	6-0	210	Jr.	4/26/70	Eules, Texas	(Bell)
62	Mehlin, Ken	OG	6-0	255	So.	1/14/71	Humboldt, Neb.	
86	* Mitchell, Johnny	TE	6-3	250	So.	1/20/71	Chicago, Ill.	(Simeon)
90	Moore, Bruce	DT	6-6	235	So.	6/10/71	York, Neb.	
73	* Noonan, David	NG	6-3	270	So.	11/11/71	Lincoln, Neb.	(Northeast)
92	* Parrella, John	DT	6-5	285	Jr.	11/22/69	Grand Island, Neb.	(Central Catholic)
52	* Penland, Matt	ILB	6-1	215	Jr.	1/21/71	Jacksonville, Fla.	(University Christian)
99	** Petko, Mike	ILB	6-3	230	Sr.	10/2/69	Anaheim, Calif.	(Servite)
82	* Pleasant, Dan	SE	5-9	180	Sr.	7/31/68	Craig, Colo.	(Moffat County)

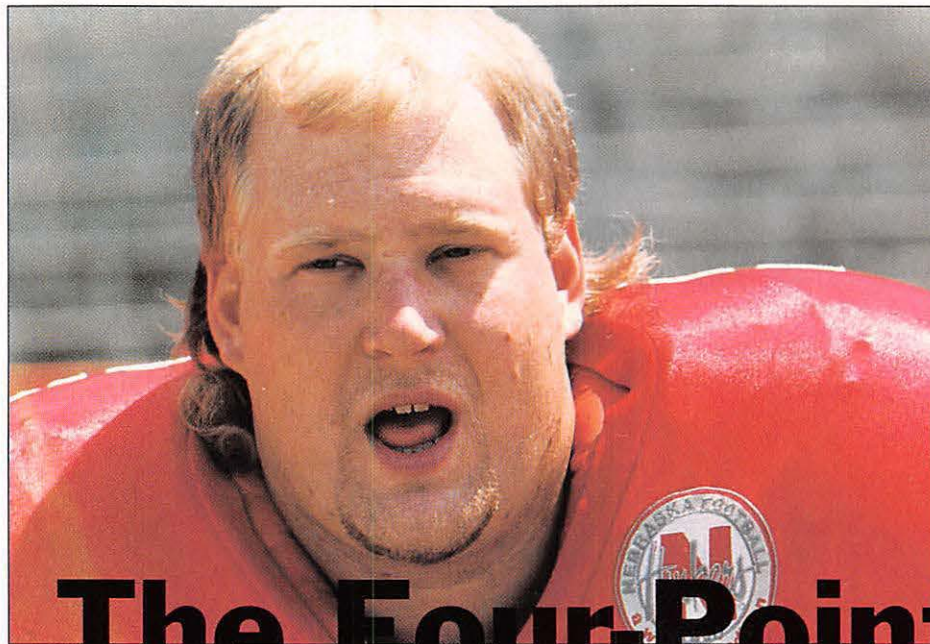
No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Birthday	Hometown	High School
36	Pollard, Brian	SS	5-11	200	Jr.	4/13/70	Clarks, Neb.	
16	Powell, Vernon	CB	5-10	165	So.	3/26/71	East St. Louis, Ill.	(Senior)
67	Ramaekers, Kevin	DT	6-4	285	So.	12/18/69	Norfolk, Neb.	(Catholic)
6	* Reece, John	FS	6-0	205	So.	1/24/71	Houston, Texas	(Jersey Village)
59	* Reifenrath, Ray	OT	6-6	300	Sr.	12/29/68	Dakota City, Neb.	(Sioux City Heelan)
81	Schepers, Eric	SE	6-1	185	So.	6/5/71	Fairmont, Neb.	
24	Schneider, Dean	FS	5-11	185	So.	11/1/70	Inman, Neb.	(O'Neill St. Mary's)
51	* Scott, Jim	C	6-2	250	So.	7/4/70	Ansley, Neb.	
46	Seizys, David	WB	5-9	185	So.	11/3/71	Seward, Neb.	(Fort Calhoun)
75	** Shields, Will	OG	6-1	280	Jr.	9/15/71	Lawton, Okla.	
35	Sieler, Tom	PK	6-5	190	Fr.	2/11/72	Las Vegas, Nev.	(Chaparral)
78	Slansky, T.J.	OG	6-5	270	Jr.	6/23/70	Stockton, Kan.	
25	* Soto, Omar	FB	5-10	215	Sr.	10/14/67	Miami, Fla.	(Miami)
66	Stai, Brenden	OG	6-4	255	So.	3/30/72	Yorba Linda, Calif.	(Anaheim Esperanza)
32	Stewart, Ed	ILB	6-0	195	Fr.	3/2/71	Chicago, Ill.	(Mount Carmel)
47	** Stigge, Mike	P	6-2	190	Jr.	10/31/69	Washington, Kan.	
22	*** Turner, Nate	WB	6-2	230	Sr.	5/28/69	Chicago, Ill.	(Mount Carmel)
88	* Vedral, Mike	TE	6-3	250	Jr.	2/26/70	Gregory, S.D.	
68	Waddell, Doug	OT	6-0	275	Jr.	10/19/70	Bennetsville, S.C.	(Flora)
83	Wade, Billy	TE	6-5	230	So.	8/27/71	Houston, Texas	(Westfield)
89	** Washington, William	TE	6-2	255	Jr.	6/22/70	Tyler, Texas	(Lee)
87	* Werner, Tom	SE	5-10	170	Jr.	7/7/69	Tilden, Neb.	(Elkhorn Valley)
12	Weyers, Jamie	FS	6-1	195	So.	1/23/71	Humboldt, Neb.	
96	** White, David	OLB	6-2	240	Jr.	2/27/70	New Orleans, La.	(St. Augustine)
61	** Wiegert, Erik	OT	6-5	275	Sr.	5/6/69	Fremont, Neb.	(Bergan)
72	Wiegert, Zach	OT	6-5	285	Fr.	8/16/72	Fremont, Neb.	(Bergan)
49	Wightman, Paul	ILB	6-2	225	Jr.	1/15/70	Tampa, Fla.	(Gaither)
98	Wiles, Duane	SE	6-2	180	Fr.	11/14/72	Hyattsville, Md.	(Bladensburg)
19	Wilhite, Kenny	CB	5-8	175	Jr.	7/26/70	St. Louis, Mo.	(Oakville)
65	Wilks, Joel	OG	6-3	260	So.	10/10/71	Hastings, Neb.	
51	Williams, Darren	ILB	6-1	245	So.	4/4/71	Chicago, Ill.	(St. Martin)
35	Zahn, Tyler	ILB	6-2	225	Jr.	1/3/70	Syracuse, Neb.	
56	Zatechka, Rob	OT	6-5	295	Fr.	12/1/71	Lincoln, Neb.	(East)
53	* Ziegelbein, Bill	C	6-4	255	Sr.	10/29/68	Polk, Neb.	
64	* Zyzda, Chris	OG	6-2	270	Jr.	7/29/70	Sioux City, Iowa	(Sergeant Bluff)

1991 Schedule

(All Times Central and Subject to Change)

Date	Opponent	Time	Site
Sept. 7	Utah State	1 p.m.	Lincoln, Neb.
Sept. 14	Colorado State	1 p.m.	Lincoln, Neb.
Sept. 21	Washington	7:05 p.m.	Lincoln, Neb.
Sept. 28	Arizona State	9 p.m.	Tempe, Ariz.
Oct. 12	Oklahoma State	1:30 p.m.	Stillwater, Okla.
Oct. 19	Kansas State	1 p.m.	Lincoln, Neb.
Oct. 26	Missouri	1 p.m.	Lincoln, Neb.
Nov. 2	Colorado	2 p.m.	Boulder, Colo.
Nov. 9	Kansas	1 p.m.	Lawrence, Kan.
Nov. 16	Iowa State	1 p.m.	Lincoln, Neb.
Nov. 29	Oklahoma	12:30 p.m.	Lincoln, Neb.

By Mike Babcock



Offensive tackle Brian Boerboom used the summer to put on a little extra weight. He entered fall camp at 310 pounds.

The Four-Point Plan

Osborne, "I promised to throw more and we'll do it."

The Nebraska football team has undergone some big changes since last season. Big changes. Literally.

The Cornhuskers are bigger and stronger than a year ago. That was an element of a four-point plan for improvement announced by Coach Tom Osborne during a news conference prior to Nebraska's annual Photo Day.

"I think we've made a lot of progress in the areas we wanted to improve," Osborne told reporters.

Among the team's objectives coming out of last season, when it lost three of its final four games to finish 9-3, was "to increase the size and strength of some of our players, particularly in the offensive line," said Osborne, in his 19th season as head coach.

"We felt that was important. And I think we've done that."

The numbers support his belief. Nebraska will have its biggest team ever, according to the results of Strength and Conditioning Coach Boyd Epley's preseason testing. The average Cornhusker weighs 222 pounds, an increase of 5.5 pounds on the average per player over last fall.

Seven players weighed in at more than 300 pounds. By comparison, no player on last year's varsity three-deeps weighed more than 295 pounds.

The heaviest Cornhusker at weigh-in was 6-foot-6 senior offensive tackle

Ray Reifenrath, who tipped the scales at 315 pounds. Brian Boerboom and Zach Wiegert, also offensive tackles, each began fall camp at 310 pounds.

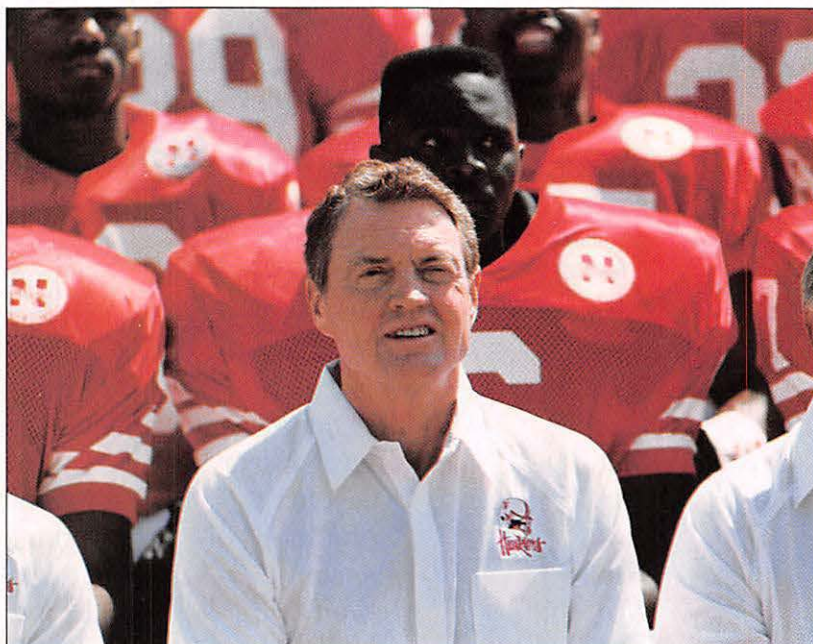
Less than six months ago when the Cornhuskers were measured and tested prior to spring practice, the offensive linemen weighed 13 pounds less, on the average, per man.

Members of the top two offensive

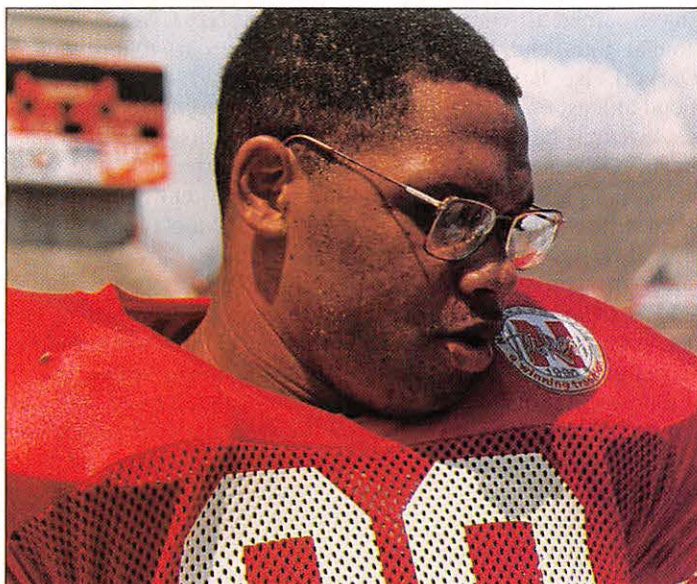
lines average nearly 22 pounds per man heavier than last season.

Nebraska's defensive linemen showed similar increases.

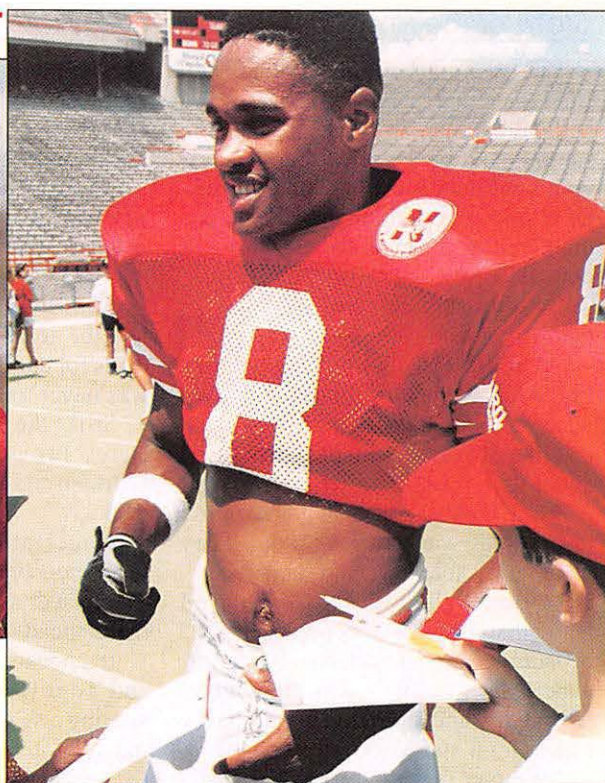
Even so, the Cornhuskers apparently haven't sacrificed speed or conditioning. "Big guys who move well," Osborne said. "That's a good sign. We have the test results to show the players are much bigger and in very good con-



Key within Osborne's plan was to beef up the linemen without sacrificing their speed.



William Washington (above) will get a chance to shine in the new-throwing offense, while Tyrone Byrd (right) will make more fans with big plays at free safety.



dition, and that's one of the changes we wanted this year."

Epley seemed pleased by the test results. "To be that big and still comparable in our performance indicators is outstanding," he said. "This is, by far, the biggest team (on the average) we've had in my 22 years here, and yet it almost matches the speed of last year. And that was the fastest team we've ever had."

Epley used offensive guard Will Shields to illustrate the benefits of Nebraska's strength and conditioning program. Shields, a candidate for post season honors, increased his weight from 257 to 281 pounds and his strength by 50 percent while dropping his 40 time from 4.68 to 4.54.

"It doesn't always follow that getting bigger and being able to lift more weights makes you a lot better football player," Osborne said.

"You've still got to know who to block. You still have to have the right technique. But for what we're trying to do, that's important."

The defense won't be quite as fast, simply because tackle Kenny Walker has moved on to the National Football League, Osborne said.

"Our (defensive) linemen are generally bigger and I think our linebackers are a little bit bigger."

A second element of Osborne's four-point plan for 1991 is directly related to the defense, which lost five other starters besides Walker to the NFL draft.

The objective has been "to try to simplify the defense as much as we could from a tactical standpoint because we will have quite a few new players playing there," he said.

"We want to make sure we free them up so they don't have to think a whole lot about what they're doing."

Charlie McBride, Nebraska's defensive coordinator, said the simplification wasn't the result of a change in philosophy, but rather an elimination of certain defensive schemes.

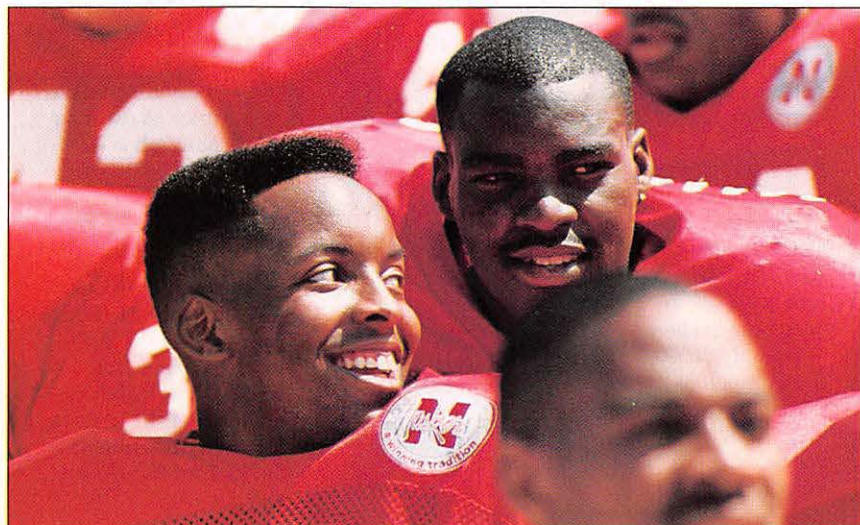
"Another thing we wanted to really emphasize (this season) was the unity factor, having people all on the same

page, going the same direction," Osborne said. "Not that we had a lack of unity last year, but we felt that was something we could improve.

"We worked at that quite a bit. It's an ongoing process."

"Unity" plaques were recently added to the walls of the football offices in the South Stadium.

The fourth and final element of Osborne's plan for 1991 "would be the confidence factor," he said. "When you don't do well at the end of the season, I think it tends to raise some doubts. There have been some rather hard things said about us.



Derek Brown (bottom) spends some time talking with Tyrone Hughes during picture day. Both figure to be important in the Huskers' scheme this season.

"There's only so much you can do. But I think that being a little bigger and stronger, having worked hard in the summer and paid a price will enhance your confidence level to some degree. Of course, the thing that will enhance their confidence level the most is to go out, play well and win some games. Success breeds success. And failure tends to breed failure."

Although last season's team didn't fail, it lost its focus Osborne said. "We weren't a very good football team at the end of last year. And I'm embarrassed about it."

The Cornhuskers' disappointing loss to Colorado was a turning point. They were never able to regain their focus.

"Offensively, we actually played better than I thought we could at times," he said despite an undersized line, inexperience overall — only two starters returned — and injuries to quarterbacks Mike Grant and Mickey Joseph.

"We can feel more optimistic this year because we do return eight starters, and at some positions we're as good as we've ever been."

Foremost among those positions are running back and tight end.

William Washington and Johnny

Mitchell both have earned all-conference recognition at tight end. Chris Garrett and Daryl Leise have each started at tight end at least once.

As for I-back, "we may be as strong as we've ever been," Osborne said. But strength will not come in the form of the Big Eight's third-leading rusher Leodis Flowers. Flowers, a senior who left the team near the end of spring drills for undisclosed personal reasons, was never reinstated by Osborne.

Still, the Cornhuskers will have Derek Brown, George Achola, Scott Baldwin and Calvin Jones lined up at I-back.

Uncertainty at quarterback is Osborne's biggest concern on offense. "We just don't have one guy who's out there ahead of the rest," he said.

It appears seniors Mickey Joseph and Tom Haase will compete for the starting assignment, perhaps through much of the non-conference season, though Keithen McCant, another senior, could still win the job, according to Osborne.

Haase began fall camp slightly ahead of Joseph on the depth chart.

If Haase emerges as the starter, Nebraska probably will pass a little more

than if Joseph is No. 1. In any case, "we do plan this year to try to throw more," said Osborne.

"We are not going to become another BYU, obviously. We don't have that kind of a quarterback, and I don't think that's consistent with what I believe will win the most football games in the Big Eight."

Nevertheless, Osborne is committed to throwing the ball more in 1991.

"I promised to throw more and we'll do it," he said, adding with a smile, "I didn't say how much more."

Grant will definitely redshirt, unless something unforeseen happens, Osborne said. Grant began fall camp sharing second-team duties with McCant. But he'll drop on the depth chart as a redshirt.

In addition to the abundance of tight ends, Nebraska has proven quality receivers in Jon Bostick, Nate Turner and Tyrone Hughes.

As for that offensive line, "the jury's still out," Osborne said. "We feel we can be better there than we were last year when we were often undersized and under-strength."

"This year, we're strong, but we're not behemoths."

Maybe not, but the Cornhuskers are certainly bigger than a year ago.

Photo Day notes . . .

Prior to his news conference Osborne distributed a sheet of statistics emphasizing Nebraska's success since 1980, when he turned from a more pass-oriented offense to an option attack. The change in offensive philosophy was a conscious decision, he said.

"I think this is something that maybe I haven't communicated very well in the past because there's been a lot of concern about our offense, and particularly our offensive approach."

Defensive backs Lorenzo Brinkley and Tyrone Legette and I-back Derek Brown had the best times in the 10-yard dash during testing. All three ran 1.51.

The best pro agility run, 3.93, was turned in by defensive back Vernon Powell. Brown ran 3.95.

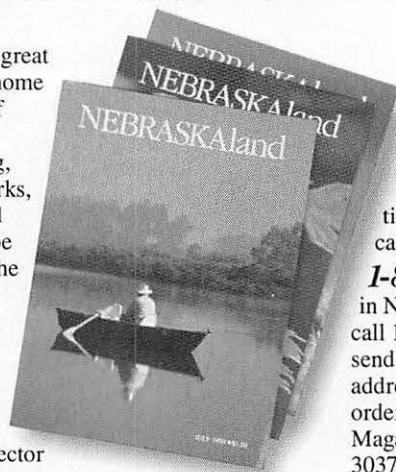
Outside linebacker Trev Alberts had the best vertical jump — 37 inches. Brown, Baldwin and fullback Lance Lewis all jumped 36 inches.

The other first-team linemen, their weights and gains since March: tackle Erik Wiegert, 6-5, 297 (24); tackle Brian Boerboom, 6-7, 310 (26); guard Will Shields, 6-2, 282 (11) and guard Dave Jensen, 6-3, 306 (19). ■

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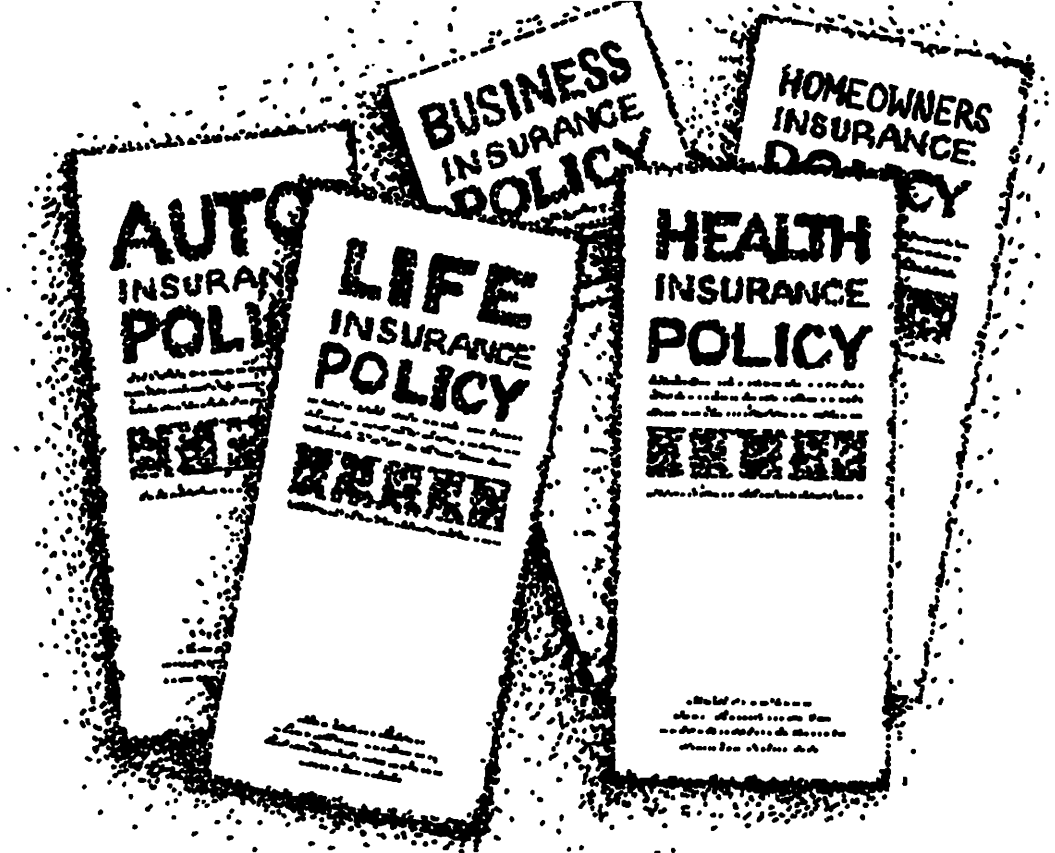
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The Aggies Are Coming!

Utah State pulls into Lincoln with an experienced squad and a stinging passing attack...but will it be enough to give Nebraska a run for its money in the 1991 opener?

by Kevin Henry

When Utah State steps on to the turf at Memorial Stadium on September 7, the Aggies will have one advantage over the Huskers: Utah State opens the season on the road against cross-state rival Utah on August 31. That will give the Aggies one game under their belts while Nebraska will be stepping on to the field for the first time.

Here's one piece of advice for Utah State: Savor the advantage — it may be one of the few that you have for the first five games.

It's not that Utah State is a bad team. The Utags are picked by some to win the Big West Conference crown this season and by virtually everybody to finish in the conference's top three. It's just that Utah State has to play the part of the classic small Division I-A school. Go on the road, play tough schools and bring home a nice paycheck. Consider the Utags' plight during the 1991 season:

- They play seven road games, in-

cluding the first three.

- The nonconference schedule includes Nebraska, Oklahoma and Brigham Young.

- Utah State's clash with San Jose State could easily determine the Big West champion. The game will be the Utags' only home contest through the first five games of the season, but it falls between road trips to OU and BYU. Ouch.

"That's my biggest concern," said sixth-year head coach Chuck Shelton. "We play San Jose State, a bonafide conference contender, at a less than ideal time, coming off the Oklahoma game and right before BYU.

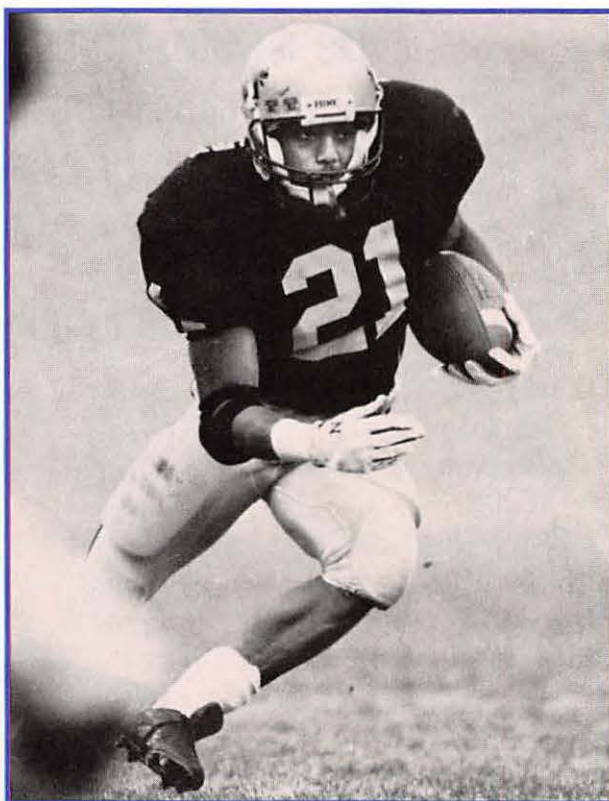
"Our early-season schedule is a challenge," Shelton continued. "First, we play a Utah team which is reported to be better than they have been in two or three years. That's probably true, and they beat us a year ago. And then there are the Nebraskas and Oklahomas. Our ap-

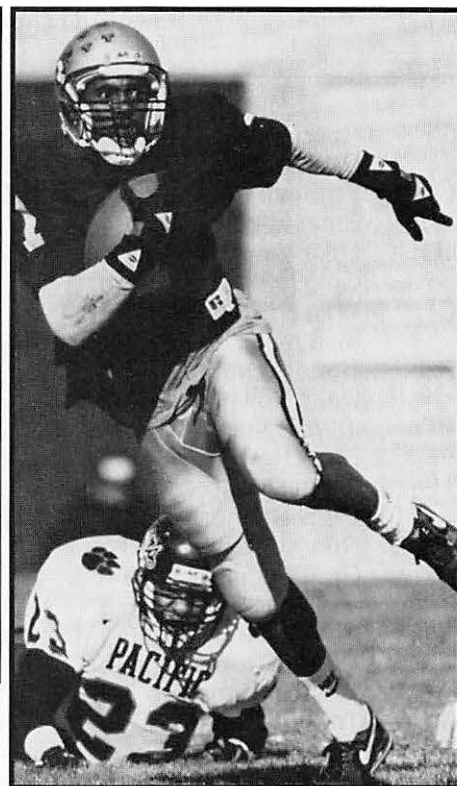
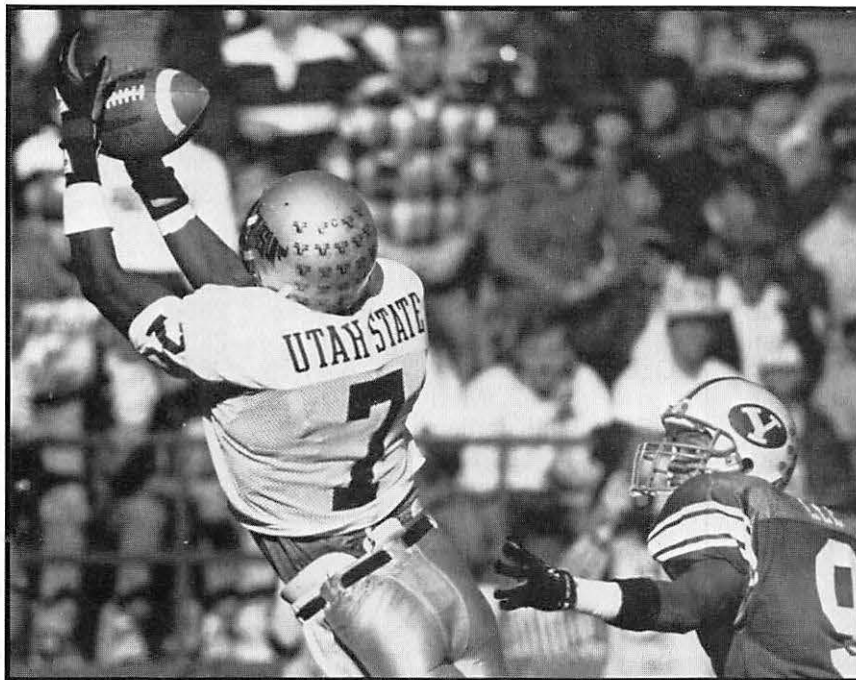
proach has to be that we go out there and play our hearts out."

But it isn't all bad news for Utah State. The cupboard is anything but bare. The Aggies return 16 starters from last season's 5-5-1 squad, including 10 on offense.

One of those starters is senior half-back Roger Grant, a 5-foot-8, 194-pound speedster who is the second-best returning rusher in the nation with 1,370 yards to his credit in 1990. The leading rusher in the Big West last season, Grant had the most productive season by a USU running back in 15 years. He finished sixth in the nation last season with a 124.5 yard per game average and 29th in all-purpose running (126.82 yards per outing). Grant's best game came against Long Beach State as he scooted for a school-record 292 yards on 34 carries and one touchdown. He

Utah State's rushing attack is keyed by the nation's second-leading returning rusher, Roger Grant (below), and the versatile Floyd Foreman (right).





With receivers like Tracey Jenkins (above) and Rod Moore (right), Aggie opponents can expect to see a lot of passes in 1991.

also exploded for 215 yards on 43 carries (a one-game Big West record) against Pacific. Despite all of his incredible credentials, Grant will receive strong competition from Floyd Foreman (5-9, 185, sr.) as a bonafide contender for the top running back job. Foreman was named second-team all-conference last season despite playing the backup role to Grant. Foreman's 5.28 yards per carry was better than Grant's average. In one half against Fresno State, Foreman gained 89 yards on nine attempts — as the team's fullback. The Utah State media guide says that Foreman "could be the quickest, fastest runner in Shelton's years in Logan."

Under normal circumstances, Jim Ray (6-3, 203) will play the fullback role. The lightish sophomore may not be able to run over would-be tacklers, but his 4.43 speed in the 40 helps him outrun the competition. A converted receiver, Ray rushed for only 36 yards last season on nine carries and hauled in 11 passes for 122 yards. His back-up, Paul Trette, did not carry the ball last year. It's safe to bet that Grant and Foreman will once again carry the rushing load.

Quarterback Ron Lopez (6-5, 214, sr.) led the Aggies to a 5-3-1 record as the starter. Lopez came to USU at the beginning of two-a-days in 1990 and learned the offense in a brief period of

time. Despite that handicap, Lopez threw for 1,961 yards and 14 touchdowns last year and finished 34th nationally in pass efficiency (123.4). He was extremely impressive against San Jose State (28-of-49 for 348 yards) and Pacific (22-of-35 for 328 yards) and USU coaches feel he has a better arm than former Aggie QB Brent Snyder (drafted by the Chicago Bears). Junior college transfer Greg Angelovic (6-0, 182, jr.) will learn the ropes playing behind Lopez.

Of course, it's difficult to be an impressive quarterback without some impressive receivers and Utah State has plenty. Senior flanker Tracey Jenkins (6-0, 191) hauled in an NCAA-leading 14 touchdown catches last season and currently has a string of eight consecutive games with a scoring grab (two short of the NCAA record). It's possible that Jenkins could tie the mark in Lincoln and break it the next week in Norman. The All-Big West performer totalled 842 yards on 52 catches in 1990, including an 11-catch, 189-yard, three-touchdown performance against Pacific in a 51-45 win. Back-up Art Erickson (6-0, 196, sr.) didn't catch a pass last year, but is a solid special teams player.

Split end Rod Moore (6-0, 192, sr.) has more career catches (93) and receiving yardage (1,478) than any other Aggie. The speedster was on the re-

ceiving end of a 94-yard pass from Lopez (the second-longest play in USU history) against Cal-State Fullerton. He will also double as the Utags' kickoff and punt return man on occasion. Reserve Dexter Pointer (5-10, 170, sr.) is a return specialist who finished second in the league and 10th nationally in kickoff returns (25.63 yards per try), a statistic that helped him earn honorable-mention all-league kudos despite his limited playing time.

Tight end is the only offensive position where the starter does not return. Kevin Rice (6-4, 228, sr.) is a good blocker, but played very little last season and does not have a catch in his three years at Utah State. Greg Thompson (6-4, 235, jr.) is one of three junior college tight ends brought to Logan during the winter. It will take some time to find a steady performer here.

All five starters return on the offensive line, a statistic that is rare in college football. Center Warren Bowers (6-3, 266, jr.) earned second-team all-conference recognition last year and is projected as an all-league performer this year. If needed, Bowers can also play guard, a position where he started two games last season. Kip Loy (6-1, 269, sr.), who missed spring drills due to shoulder surgery, will play behind Bowers and contend for deep-snapping chores.

UTAH STATE POST-SPRING 2-DEEP

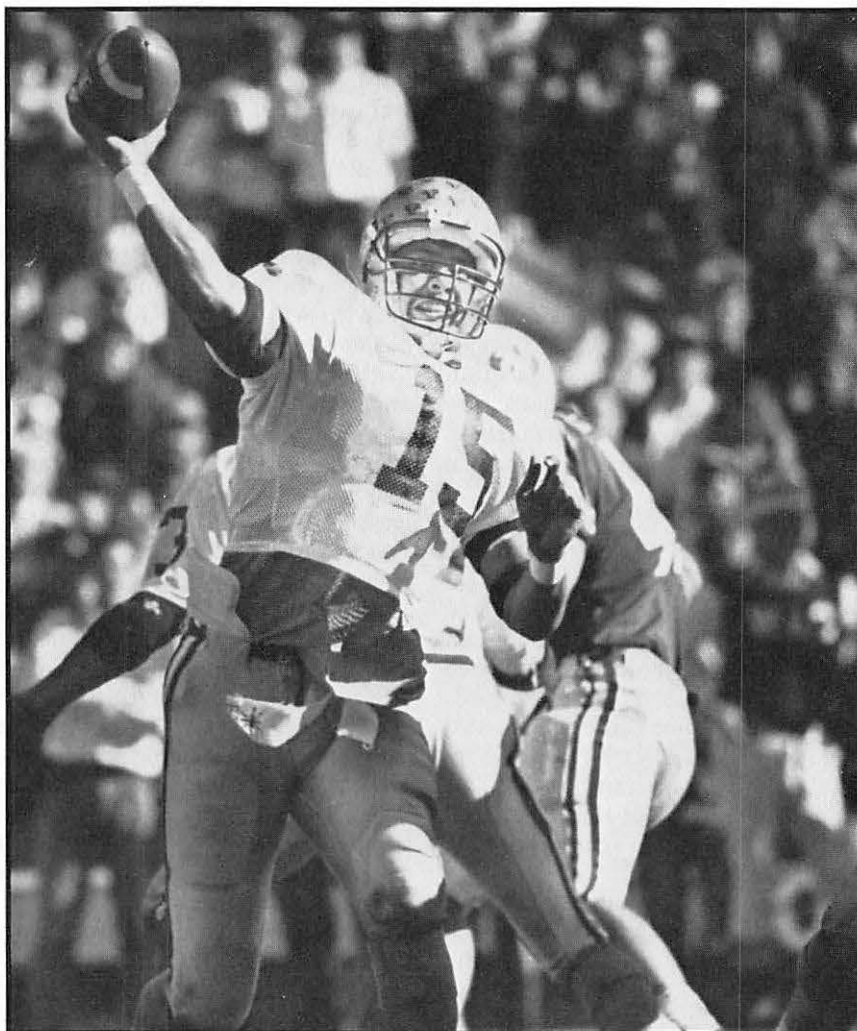
(returning starters in **bold**)

OFFENSE					DEFENSE				
SE	Rod Moore	6-0	192	sr.	OLB	Todd Heberlein	6-5	235	jr.
	Dexter Pointer	5-10	170	sr.		Greg Davis	6-1	234	sr.
LT	Ed Silva	6-4	260	sr.	LT	Rob VanDePol	6-2	239	sr.
	Brian Funk	6-4	267	jr.		Joe Jacobs	6-4	270	jr.
LG	Mike Vivoli	6-4	258	sr.	NG	Mark Johnson	6-0	286	jr.
	Greg O'Banion	6-5	300	jr.		Ruben Farias	6-1	258	so.
C	Warren Bowers	6-3	266	jr.	RT	Steve Neeleman	6-4	250	jr.
	Kip Loy	6-1	269	sr.		Brook Phillips	6-1	250	jr.
RG	Charlie Smith	6-3	270	sr.	OLB	S. Robinson	6-4	235	jr.
	Dean Dowty	6-1	271	sr.		James Ward	6-1	200	fr.
RT	J. Maughan	6-4	268	so.	ILB	Matt Martinez	5-11	222	sr.
	Ernie Howren	6-5	282	so.		J. Younger	6-0	248	so.
TE	Kevin Rice	6-4	228	sr.	ILB	Del Lyles	6-1	217	sr.
	Greg Thompson	6-4	235	jr.		Willie Jackson	5-11	220	fr.
QB	Ron Lopez	6-5	214	sr.	LCB	Donald Toomer	6-2	175	fr.
	Greg Angelovic	6-0	182	jr.		Travis Schow	6-1	182	fr.
FB	Jim Ray	6-3	203	so.	FS	Damon Smith	5-10	163	so.
	Paul Trette	6-1	236	so.		Jeff Haugen	6-5	177	sr.
HB	Roger Grant	5-8	194	sr.	SS	Toby Tyler	6-0	185	sr.
	Floyd Foreman	5-9	185	sr.		Gary Brown	6-0	188	fr.
FL	Tracey Jenkins	6-0	191	sr.	RCB	Ron Edwards	6-0	196	sr.
	Art Erickson	6-0	196	sr.		Darius Bynum	5-11	176	fr.

Right guard Charlie Smith (6-3, 270, sr.) made the transition from junior college defensive tackle to offensive guard last year and did it with such skill that he was named second-team All-Big West. Shelton says that Smith "brings competitiveness and toughness to the offensive line. Once the bell rings, he's ready." Back-up Dean Dowty (6-1, 271, sr.) saw a great deal of playing time last year and will continue to this season. Opposite Smith will be Mike Vivoli (6-4, 258, sr.), a fifth-year player with good skills. Greg O'Banion (6-5, 300, jr.) has battled shoulder problems throughout his career at Utah State and is a big question mark for the Aggies. While his physical condition may be in question, his talent is not. "Greg has a chance to become one of the great ones," Shelton said earlier in O'Banion's career. "He is one of the most competitive big men I have ever been around."

Jaceson Maughan (6-4, 268, so.) also made the switch from defense to offense and started the final 10 games at right tackle. Maughan is very versatile, as shown by his stint with the Utag basketball squad in 1989-90. Another

QB Ron Lopez edged out Colorado star Darian Hagan to earn "Player of the Year" honors in high school (both were from the Los Angeles area).



Utah State against Nebraska and the Big Eight

Last season Utah State was on the verge of moving into some semblance of respectability in the Big West Conference with a better-than-it-looks-on-paper 5-5-1 season. Throw out three nonconference preseason losses and one 27-13 win over Long Beach State for good measure and USU actually finishes 4-2-1. That's not bad considering the losses — at the hands of eventual Big West champion San Jose State and a 45-10 throttling by Heisman Trophy winner Ty Detmer's BYU club. So the obvious key for Coach Chuck Shelton's squad going into the 1991 season would be early success to making it over the proverbial hump.

Apparently the Utah State scribes that penned this season's schedule didn't feel early distractions would hinder the squad. Once again Utah and Brigham Young appear on the Aggies' nonconference slate. But it's a pair of schools from the Big Eight Conference

that really look frightening even on paper. After opening with Utah on the road, USU will creep into Lincoln and then Norman on Sept. 21. But a quick blow at Memorial Stadium could prove to be more than the Aggies can handle.

This will be the fifth meeting between the two schools and may be yet another humbling lesson for the Aggies. Leading the series 4-0, Nebraska last remembers USU as a squad it pummeled 56-12 in the season opener in Lincoln in 1987. Actually the closest the Aggies have come to defeating the Huskers was a pair of 21-point losses beginning in 1966 (28-7) and a 35-14 loss in 1979. Prior to that, Bob Devaney's national champion squad manhandled the Utags 42-6 in 1971.

Not only have the Utags had trouble with Nebraska when they venture into Big Eight Conference territory, other conference schools have been just as discourteous hosts. In all USU is 8-23-

1 against Big Eight teams with its only winning series being a 2-1 edge over Kansas State University. Since the Big Eight formed in 1960, the Aggies have been able to capture only one win compared to 13 losses. In 1972 a 49-0 crushing of the Utags by OU was later forfeited to bring USU's record to 12-2 if you want to be technical. Along with Nebraska's record against the school, Iowa State and Kansas both own 1-0 records, while Missouri has swept the series 4-0. The sole competition for USU has been scattered wins against Colorado since 1912. That record stands at 6-10-1, but the two schools have not faced off since 1949.

While playing Big Eight schools is tough enough for the Aggies, playing them on the road has been even worse. In 14 road trips since 1966, USU has managed only one win and has an even bleaker 4-21 record overall.

— Chris Greer

sophomore, Ernie Howren (6-5, 282), will provide relief. At left tackle, senior Ed Silva (6-4, 260) has started the last 22 games for Utah State and has been the team's most consistent offensive lineman for the past three years. Silva fills every requirement of the word "veteran." Junior Brian Funk (6-4, 267) started the first game last year at right tackle, but was relegated to a reserve role for the remainder of the season. He will continue to serve in that capacity this season.

On defense, only six starters return. The most celebrated is inside linebacker Del Lyles (6-1, 217, sr.), who enters this campaign with 321 career sticks and should easily overtake the career lead with 62 this season. Lyles was named second-team all-league in 1989 and honorable-mention last season. Nebraska fans may remember Lyles from the last USU encounter in 1988 (a 56-12 Husker win). As a true freshman, he led the squad in tackles against Nebraska and has continued to be a leader every game. In 1988, he had 123 tackles, the sixth-highest season mark in Utag history. In 1989 (although slowed by an ankle injury), he racked up 104 stops

and followed that performance with a 94-stick season in 1990, despite nagging shoulder and ankle injuries. His started last year with a bang, totalling 14 stops in three of the first five games. Redshirt freshman Willie Jackson (5-11, 220) will learn from Lyles this year and be ready to assume the position next season.

Lyles' fellow inside linebacker is Matt Martinez (5-11, 222, sr.), who was named prior to the 1990 season one of the top 10 downfield coverage players by *The Sporting News*. Martinez is probably the most versatile Aggie. In

one contest last year, he played full-back and linebacker while also performing on most of the special teams. His 20 tackles each of the last two seasons tell only part of the story. When Martinez needs a rest, sophomore Jermaine Younger (6-0, 248) will step in. He is also a versatile athlete. He has 4.6 speed in the 40, has won a slam dunk contest on campus, finished fifth in the Big West Conference Championships in the shotput with a throw of 48'6". By the way, he was in on 46 tackles last year.

Two juniors will hold down the out-

Senior linebacker Del Lyles has been a leader ever since his first game at Utah State (against Nebraska).



Looking Back: Nebraska's Last Five Season-Openers

1990 — NU 13, Baylor 0 at Lincoln

Two Gregg Barrios' field goals and I-back Scott Baldwin's 2-yard touchdown plunge proved to be the difference as the Huskers edged Southwest-ern Conference foe Baylor 13-0 on a steamy night in Lincoln.

In the last 11 seasons, only one Nebraska home season opener (a 17-13 loss to Florida State in 1985) had resulted in a Husker victory by fewer than 17 points.

Quarterback Mike Grant connected on five of six passes for 86 yards while Baldwin accounted for 92 yards on the ground. Linebacker Pat Tyrance registered 10 tackles to lead the defense in the nationally televised (ESPN) contest.

1989 — NU 48, No. Illinois 17 at Lincoln

The visiting Huskies were held to only 174 total yards while the Husker offense churned out 557 in a 48-17 pasting. Nebraska rallied from a 17-17 tie at the half with 21 third-quarter points to thwart any threat.

Quarterback Gerry Gdowski began his record-breaking season by hitting on six of eight passes for 83 yards and a touchdown while accounting for 74 rushing yards on five carries. I-back Leodis Flowers had a career-best 65 yards on 11 carries in place of the injured Ken Clark.

Linebacker Pat Tyrance had 10 tackles on the day and Mike Petko had six to pace the Black Shirts. Kicker Chris Drennan nailed a 55-yard field goal in the fourth quarter, tying a

school record. Senior offensive tackle Doug Glaser (a candidate for All-America honors) suffered a compound fracture of his right big toe in the contest, an injury that would slow him for the majority of the first half of the schedule.

1988 — NU 23, Texas A&M 14 at East Rutherford, New Jersey

Gregg Barrios had three field goals and quarterback Steve Taylor connected with tight end Todd Millikan on a 20-yard scoring aerial as Nebraska beat stubborn Texas A&M in the annual Kickoff Classic at The Meadowlands before a national television audience.

Taylor, who survived several punishing blows from Texas A&M blitzing linebackers to earn Outstanding Player honors, rushed for 34 yards on 18 carries and converted several key third-down plays. Taylor also racked up 125 yards on 11-of-22 throwing.

The most ferocious hit belonged to Husker linebacker LeRoy Etienne. A&M's most dangerous return threat, Rod Harris, received a punt at A&M's 20-yard line and was promptly met by the streaking Etienne. Hitting him full force, Etienne sent Harris flying to the turf with a separated shoulder.

1987 — NU 56, Utah State 12 at Lincoln

The Big Red pounded out 515 rushing yards to easily put away Utah State 56-12. Big plays were the name of the game for Nebraska. Quarterback Steve Taylor scooted for touchdown runs of 58 and 44 yards on his

way to a 157-yard performance on nine carries. The effort allowed Taylor to etch his name in the record book as the single-game yardage holder for a quarterback.

But Taylor wasn't the only one to enjoy a big day. Rod Smith broke loose for an 80-yard punt return and Dana Brinson added a 57-yarder. I-back Keith Jones had scoring runs of 1, 1 and 13 yards on his way to a 118-yard day.

LeRoy Etienne had six tackles in limited playing time to lead the defense and Jon Marco plucked an interception that resulted in the Huskers' eighth and final touchdown.

1986 — NU 34, Florida State 17 at Lincoln

Only hours after the NCAA had repealed a possible suspension of 60 Husker football players, quarterback Steve Taylor rushed for 139 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries and accounted for two more scores through the air as Nebraska beat the visiting Seminoles 34-17.

With rain falling off and on and the temperature at 55 degrees, Nebraska's offense churned out 427 total yards while the stifling Black Shirts held potent Florida State to only 137 total yards.

Defensive back Charles Fryar led the defense with seven total tackles while middle guard Danny Noonan was right behind with six. Wingback Von Sheppard hauled in a 46-yard scoring bomb from Taylor early in the fourth quarter to put the game away for Nebraska.

side linebacker spots. Todd Heberlein (6-5, 235) is considered Utah State's top pass rusher and Utah coaches are hoping he fulfills expectations this season. Stephen Robinson (6-4, 227) was listed by *The Sporting News* in 1989 as one of the outstanding freshman linebackers in the country. Shelton and his staff feel that Robinson's quickness and ability to defend against the pass make him a valuable asset. Greg Davis (6-1, 234, sr.) moves from the inside spot to back up Heberlein while redshirt freshman James Ward (6-1, 200), a lightish 'backer with good pass rushing ability, will play behind Robinson.

Rob VanDePol (6-2, 239, sr.) and

Steve Neeleman (6-4, 250, jr.) should be the mainstays at the defensive tackle slots. VanDePol was a second-team all-conference selection last year after compiling 43 total tackles (including six for lost yardage), four sacks, breaking up two passes and recovering a fumble. Against Long Beach State, he was in on 15 stops, including two sacks and two sticks for lost yardage, plus three quarterback pressures, helping him earn Player of the Week honors in the Big West. Neeleman is USU's candidate for Academic All-America honors, currently carrying a 3.94 GPA in Pre-Med studies. He started eight games last year and racked up 24 stops. His

size and leaping ability enabled him to lead the team in tipped passes last year with seven. Juniors Joe Jacobs (6-4, 270) and Brook Phillips (6-1, 250) will be the back-ups. Jacobs had one of the best springs of any Utah State player while Phillips missed spring drills due to a knee injury.

Noseguard Mark Johnson (6-0, 286, jr.) has settled into the position after playing tackle for a brief stint in 1989. He was a second-team all-conference selection last season after making 37 tackles (good for second among Utah defensive linemen). Sophomore Ruben Farias (6-1, 258) was impressive enough in spring drills to earn back-up status.

Key Match-ups — Nebraska vs. Utah State

NU's secondary against the Utags' vaunted passing attack

Passing is the key to the Utah State offense, as shown by last year's 2,296 yards through the air. QB Ron Lopez will test a new secondary and it will be important for the newest Black Shirts to stuff the pass. If Lopez can connect early with Tracey Jenkins and Rod Moore, USU could put some points on the board. If the secondary can put a dent in the attack, it could be a long day for the visitors.

An experienced Utah State offensive line against a new Nebraska defensive line — All five starters return for the Utags while Pat Englebert is the only veteran for the Huskers. But the Utags' experience could be negated by their lack of size. Tackles Ed Silva

(260 pounds) and Jaceson Maughan (268) will be going against bigger and possibly stronger Huskers in John Parrella (285) and Brian Brown (275). Will experience or size win the battle? We'll know the answer near the end of the first half. The rushing statistics of Roger Grant and Floyd Foreman will tell the tale.

A big Nebraska offensive line against a light Utah State defensive line — Nebraska center Jim Scott is the lightest Husker at 250 pounds. He will be going against the heaviest Aggie, Mark Johnson (286). The tackle match-up will be the key here. Nebraska's tackles will average 280 pounds; Utah State's will average 245. When a team is trying to stop a rushing attack like Nebraska's, that isn't a good sign.

Strong safety Toby Tyler (6-0, 185, sr.) is the leader in the secondary. Another victim of shoulder surgery (which kept him out of spring drills), Tyler has started at strong safety for the last two seasons and earned the reputation as a hard hitter. He was third on the team last season in tackles with 61, intercepted two passes and batted down three others. His best season came in 1989 when he had 106 stops. Redshirt freshman Gary Brown (6-0, 188) is the reserve.

The other returning starter in the secondary is right cornerback Ron Edwards (6-0, 196, sr.). He has only three career interceptions — all coming against Heisman Trophy winner Ty Detmer. An honorable-mention pick last year, he finished fifth on the team with 60 stops. He has appeared in 32 of the Utags' last 33 games, missing a contest due to a death in the family. Darius Bynum (5-11, 176, fr.) impressed the coaches in spring drills with his speed and athletic ability.

At the other corner is Donald Toomer (6-2, 175, fr.). He will have his hands full this season and his play may be a key to stopping the pass. If opponents can pick on Toomer, it could be a long

day for the Aggies. Another redshirt freshman, Travis Schow (6-1, 182), will be behind Toomer. Junior Craig Tippens (5-11, 195, jr.) is a junior college transfer who is currently third on the depth chart. Inexperience is the operative word at left cornerback.

Free safety Damon Smith (5-10, 163, so.) led the Big West in interceptions last year with five. That statistic is even more impressive when you consider that Smith was the second-string free safety in 1990. That won't be the case this season. Senior Jeff Haugen (6-5, 177) is hoping some of the second-

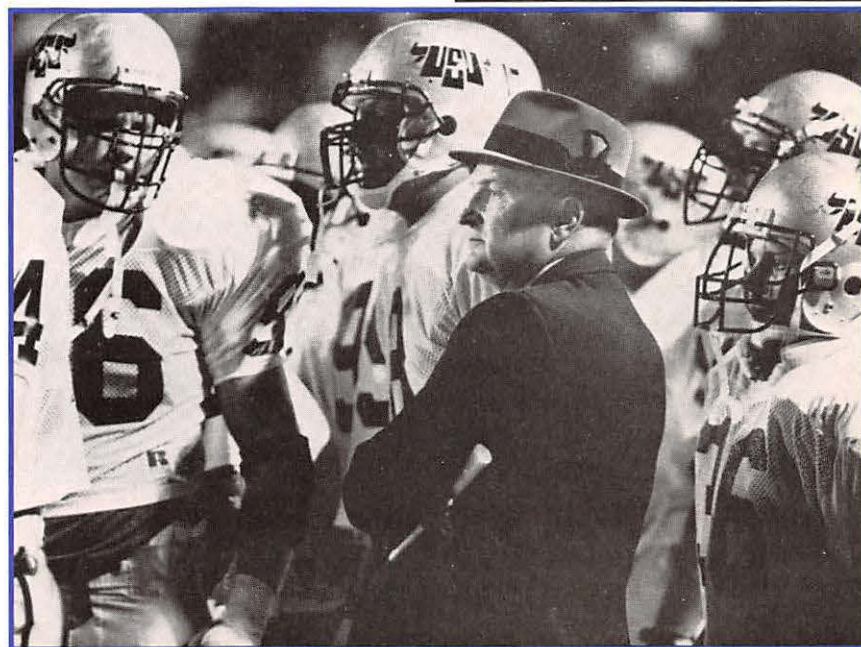
string magic of last season will rub off on him this year.

Special teams is one of the Utags' strengths. Junior kicker Doug Beach was selected All-Big West last year after nailing all 35 PATs and 14-of-17 field goals (including a school-record 10 consecutive). His longest field goal last year was from 43 yards, so range may be a factor. Most publications have Beach listed as the top kicker in the conference this year and one of the best in the nation. His accuracy is impressive. Senior punter Rusty Carlsen was also an all-league pick in 1990 after averaging 42.16 yards per boot, a mark that placed him 16th in the nation in that department. In 1989, Carlsen was second-team All-Big West with a 40.7 average. His best punt came against Brigham Young in 1989 as he boomed a 70-yarder.

With a wide array of talent, Utah State has a formidable arsenal. The only problem for the Aggies is that their arsenal is better geared for teams in the Big West, not Big Eight. The Aggies have the talent needed to make a run at the Big West championship, but it will take more than that to upset Nebraska in Lincoln. ■

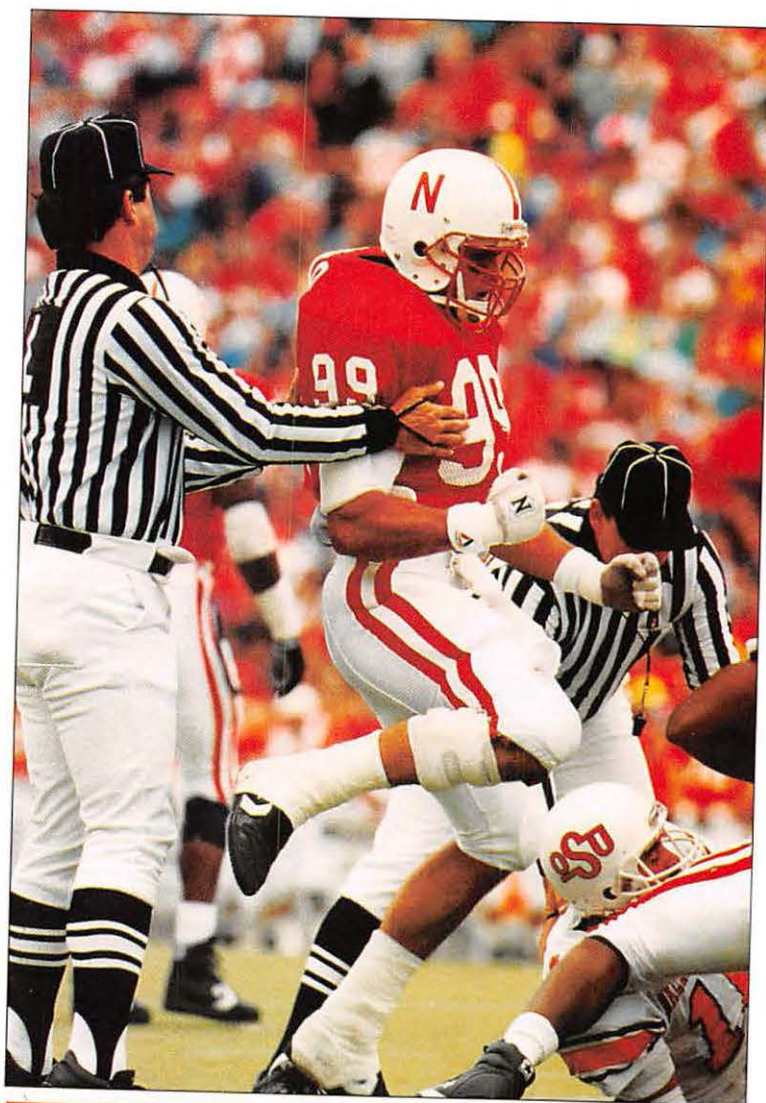
Utah State over the past five years

1990 — 5-5-1 (lost 45-10 at Missouri)
 1989 — 4-7
 1988 — 4-7 (lost 63-13 at Nebraska, lost 35-21 at Missouri)
 1987 — 5-6 (lost 56-12 at Nebraska)
 1986 — 3-8 (lost 24-10 at Missouri, lost 16-13 at Kansas)



Head Coach Chuck Shelton, entering his sixth season at the Utah State helm, believes the 1991 Aggies will be the best team he has had at Logan.

FOOTBALL FORECAST



Senior Mike Petko will try to calm the Black Shirts in the early stages of the game.

Nick Hytrek, *Daily Nebraskan*, Lincoln, Neb.: "I don't know a whole lot about them (Utah State). I've heard they've got some good players like the receiver (Tracey) Jenkins. Everyone is looking for a major blowout. It will be the first game for some of the Nebraska guys, but people are looking for us to run over them. It's supposed to be a game to get everyone in the groove, but I think it will be tougher than people think."

"We've got an unproven defense and I think they may be able to score some points on us. If the defense lets down it could be a long night. I can't pick them to win though. It will probably end up around 49-12."

Mike Henneke, *Logan Herald Journal*, Logan, Neb.: "I'd have to predict Nebraska will win and the score will be about 45-10. That may turn out to be kind of conservative because of Utah State's track record. Utah State has about 16 returning starters and Roger Grant is a real good back. They have many offensive weapons, but I don't know if they are up to par with Nebraska."

"Last year they (USU) tied for second in the Big West. This year they've got a good chance to take it all. Anything could happen, but a good start could make a difference."

"Utah State's problem is its record shows it has trouble competing with the big schools. Who knows, it could be a good game."

Claudia Sangster, *York News-Times*, York, Neb.: "I'm going to say Nebraska

"Openers have been
a good sounding board
for Osborne and the
team rarely lets him
down . . ."

Sept. 7, 1991
Lincoln, Neb
Huskers vs. Aggies
Kickoff: 1:00 p.m.

will win **63-10**. I think with it being the opener, both squads will be a little rusty. Nebraska is supposed to have a new attitude this year and that could be important, but I think (Nebraska's) size and quickness will be the keys early.

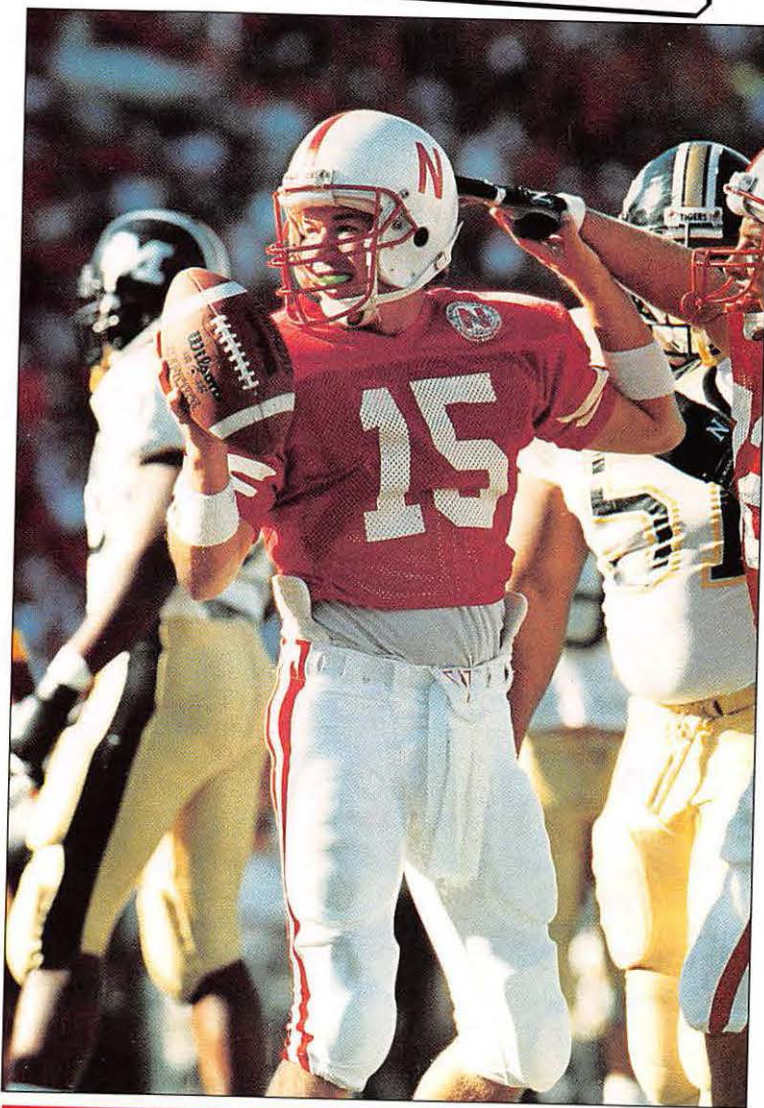
"There are areas in defense that are unproven and that could also be a key. Nebraska's offense will probably take over early and knock Utah State out of it."

Mike Fuehrer, *Norfolk Daily News*, Norfolk, Neb.: "Nebraska will kick off the season in fine style by beating Utah State **56-10**. The unanswered question right now is the quarterback situation at Nebraska, but I expect Tom Haase to have a good game.

"The one question seems to be the unproven defense for Nebraska, but I think they will show up. The defense could be the key to the game and will eventually be the strength of the team this year."

Bob Mims, *Associated Press*, Utah: "USU looks to be an improved and solid team in its own league, but I don't see them being able to stand up to Nebraska. It's a hell of a lot different playing a Cal State Fullerton and a quality team like Nebraska. Add to that playing against the crowd in Lincoln and I'd put the score around **52-14**."

Bruce Viergutz, *Beatrice Sun*, Beatrice, Neb.: "I think it's a game Nebraska should be able to win, but Utah State has a game before we do and that always makes a difference when a team



Tom Haase will look to frustrate USU while captaining a new-look Husker offense.



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Predictions

plays another that has a game under its belt. Coach Osborne said he doesn't like it either.

"I think Utah State has come a long way and could provide more of a game than people would expect. They (Utah State) have good passing and passing teams seem to give Nebraska problems. I think it may be a close game for a while, but Nebraska is a deeper talent and has a good offense. (Tom) Haase is going to be the leader going in and that means they'll put it up a little more.

"They (Nebraska) should win fairly handily, like around 34-17."

Tom Vint, *Associated Press*, Nebraska: "I guess it will be a good opportunity for Nebraska to showcase its reported new look on offense. I haven't had a chance to research Utah State real well, but I think the Huskers will be more than they can handle. The Nebraska offense will show signs of approaching its 1983 status.

"Openers have been a good sounding board for Osborne and the team rarely lets him down. I'm looking for a 45-13 score with lots of reserves getting playing time."

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED: "While it would be reckless to underestimate any team, the Huskers can probably rest assured of a fairly easy win provided the four returning starters on defense keep their squad together mentally.

"With the offensive capability Utah State possesses, regardless of the lack of respect they get for competing in the Big West, there is a chance it could scrounge up some early scores on the untested Black Shirts. USU quarterback Ron Lopez has a fine arm and Tracey Jenkins and Rod Moore are two of the best receivers you've never heard of. Running back Roger Grant is a competent runner who is a legitimate threat every time he touches the ball. If the defense can hold off an early surge, the Husker offense will take over and and put up some embarrassing numbers on the Aggies. Score should end up around 42-14."

Subscribers — If you wish to venture a guess as to the outcome and score of the Huskers' Sept. 28 game against Arizona State, send your predictions and thoughts to HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED, Football Forecast, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb., 68501. ■

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Air Nebraska

Nebraska's quest for the 1991 Big Eight and national championship can be followed by Husker fans on the radio and television.

By Kevin Henry

With the start of Nebraska's 1991 run at the Big Eight and national championship just around the corner, it's once again time for the Nebraska Football Network to fire up the generators and prepare to bring Husker fans across the nation all the action.

The Nebraska Football Network will be in its ninth year of operation in 1991 and is expected to feed over 40 stations in Nebraska and 11 other states (Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Iowa, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin). Husker fans in cities such as Houston, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Phoenix and Tucson will be able to hear all of the action on their local radio stations.

Kent Pavelka will be back in the broadcast booth for his 18th season as the "Voice of the Huskers." The six-

time Nebraska Sportscaster-of-the-Year is also the sports director and operations manager at Husker Football Network flagship station KFAB-AM (1110) in Omaha. Pavelka has also called Husker basketball and baseball in the past.

Joining Pavelka in the broadcast booth will once again be color analyst Gary Sadlemeyer, also of KFAB-AM. Another KFAB-AM veteran, Jack Payne, will also be lending his services in the booth, while Larry Moehlenbrink of Lincoln's KFOR-AM will provide sideline reports.

Pavelka said that in order to bring the game to life for the countless Husker fans who depend on the network, hours of preparation is the key.

"It's like preparing for a class in college," said the graduate of the Nebraska School of Broadcast Journalism.

"There's a lot of memorization involved and a lot of reading. On Saturdays, hopefully all of that preparation will pay off during the broadcast."

Pavelka's game day routine begins around 9 a.m. when he and his wife leave Omaha. Pavelka arrives in the press box around 10:15 and from 10:15 until air time at noon, "is a scramble. The crew is trying to get things ready for everybody and the announcers are studying and coordinating last-minute details," he said. Finalizing spotting boards and last-minute changes are part of the stressful routine that happens 12 times a year.

"The only time that I'm really not thinking about football is on Saturday night," Pavelka said. "On Sunday morning, I grab every newspaper that I can find and read the game story. On Monday, I contact the opponent's sports information director and get the team's three-deep at the skill positions.

I begin to memorize those names the minute that I get them. I'll think about them while I am jogging at night. I talk to Milt Tenopir and George Darlington to see what their thoughts are and if there are any changes. I read about the other team and things that will relate to the game. I read things from the opponent's press releases. By the time that I walk into the booth on Saturday morning, I will have three or four sheets of paper with



Nebraska's radio team (from left): Jack Payne, Kent Pavelka and Gary Sadlemeyer.

Nebraska Football Network Affiliates — 1991

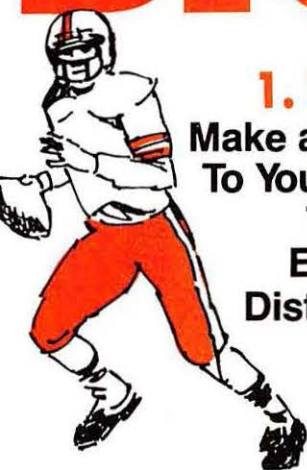
City	Affiliate	Frequency
Ainsworth	KBRB-AM	1400
Alliance	KCOW-AM	1400
Broken Bow	KCNI-AM	1280
Central City	KZEN-FM	100.3
Chadron	KCSR-AM	610
Columbus	KWMG-FM	93.5
Cozad	KAMI-FM	104.5
Fairbury	KGMT-AM	1310
Gordon	KSDZ-FM	95.5
Grand Island	KRGI-AM	1430
Hastings	KHAS-AM	1230
Holdrege	KUVR-AM	1380
Kearney	KGFW-AM	1340
Kimball	KIMB-AM	1260
Lexington	KRVN-FM	880
Lincoln	KFOR-AM	1240
McCook	KICX-FM	96.0
Norfolk	KNEN-FM	94.7
North Platte	KELN-AM	1410
Ogallala	KOGA-AM	930
Omaha	KFAB-AM	1110
O'Neill	KBRX-FM	102.9
Ord	KNLV-AM	1060
Scottsbluff	KOAQ-AM	690
Sidney	KSID-AM	1340
Valentine	KVSH-AM	940
Wayne	KTCH-AM	1590
West Point	KWPN-AM	840
York	KAWL-AM	1370

Out-of-State Affiliates

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Conway, AR	KFCA-AM	1330
Coolidge, AZ (Phoenix-Tucson)	KCKY-AM	1150
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Glendale, CA	KIEV-AM	870
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Longmont, CO	KLMO-AM	1060
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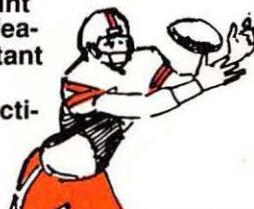
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scribbled notes on them. I may have 100 notes on those sheets of paper. This helps me relate something that happens on the field to the audience."

As with most radio announcers, Pavelka felt the calling of the microphone at a young age.

"I had the inkling to do broadcasting when I was in elementary school," he remembered. "I would get a newspaper and read the results into a microphone. The desire kept growing and, when I got out of high school, I attended Nebraska to major in broadcast journalism. I had a job in 1971 at Fremont and came to the network in 1974."

While there are many on-the-field memories that stick out in Pavelka's mind ("coming so close to the national championship after the 1983 season and the entire 1983 team with (Mike) Rozier, (Turner) Gill and (Irving) Fryar,"), it is the off-the-field memories that are the dearest.

"When I was working with Lyle Brimser (longtime Nebraska play-by-play man) is something that I will never forget," Pavelka said. "There are just so many memories of things that happened away from the microphone in the broadcast booth. The overall camaraderie with the other people that I have worked with is very special to me."

However, the radio won't be the only media vehicle that Husker fans can use to see their Huskers. ABC-TV has the Huskers scheduled twice. The Huskers' September 21 clash with Pacific 10 and national power Washington in Lincoln will be Nebraska's first regular-season appearance on the network since its 1988 trip to Pasadena to play UCLA (a 41-28 loss). The game, slated to kick off at 7:05 p.m., will be only the fourth night game in the 69-year history of Memorial Stadium. The Huskers will be involved in another night game the next week at Arizona State. Kickoff is scheduled for 9 p.m. (central time) in hopes of avoiding the almost-overwhelming Arizona heat.

On November 29 (the day after Thanksgiving), the annual Battle of the Big Reds (Oklahoma-Nebraska) will be broadcast by ABC for the first time since 1986. At press time, Nebraska's games at Colorado and Arizona State were also being considered for broadcast by ESPN. Nebraska is slated for two delayed telecasts on the regional Prime Network package on Sept. 14 (Colorado State) and Nov. 9 (at Kansas). ■



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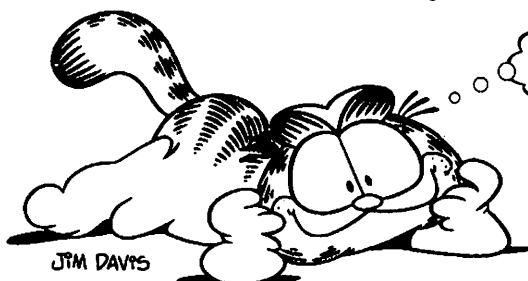
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Stars in the Lone Star State

★★

**The stars on Friday night are (as always) big and bright
deep in the heart of Texas.**

by James Hale

If any year should establish the state of Texas as the high school quarterback capital of the '90s, it should be 1991. The consistent top three college quarterbacks in the country all hail from Texas. San Antonio's Ty Detmer took his talents to BYU and will shoot for his second Heisman in the fall. Houston's David Klingler finished fifth in the Heisman voting and is poised to steal Detmer's prize this season. Sophomore Tommy Maddox left Hurst for the bright lights of Los Angeles and already the UCLA Bruin has established himself as one of the front-runners for this year's Heisman.

Top 20 quarterbacks Alex Van Pelt of Pittsburgh and Peter Gardere of Texas developed their talents in San Antonio and Houston, respectively. Denison's Reggie Perry is set to start at Southern California as a sophomore. That's just the big-timers! Other native Texans will explode on the scene for 300-yard days in the fall.

That kind of success has college recruiters looking to Texas and what they will find is a crop of quarterbacks that have the potential to be every bit as good as the ones playing in college stadiums across the country this fall. No less than seven dropback types and one that can run as well as pass will draw attention from coast to coast.

Heading the list is a familiar name in Texas quarterback circles. Huntsville's Chuck Clements (6-foot-3, 185 pounds, 4.7 speed) followed his brother Steve who threw for 2,919 yards and 29 touchdowns. Joe Clements keeps the entire program in the family as head coach. A broken wrist this summer and 21 interceptions were the only negatives on this classic dropback passer. The wrist is healed and the comparisons between the two brothers keep rolling in.

Remember that two seasons ago Steve was the top quarterback prospect in Texas and was heading to Austin. After a redshirt year, Steve grew im-

patient with the Longhorn program and headed west to BYU where he will likely follow Detmer as the Cougar signal-caller. Coach Clements says the main difference between the two boys is that Steve is a left-hander and Chuck a right-hander.

"They are real close," Joe said. "If they both threw right-handed, you really couldn't tell the difference."

"I really didn't know what to expect from Chuck," Joe continued. "He played behind his older brother and didn't really get out from that shadow until last year. He scrambled much better than I thought he could and showed great

No less than seven dropback types and one that can run as well as pass will draw attention from coast to coast.

touch on the ball. I expect great things from Chuck as a senior."

If the Longhorns couldn't put the ball in the air enough to suit Steve, it's doubtful that they will be able to satisfy Chuck either. He's looking for a program that has a history of putting quarterbacks in the NFL.

"I'm looking for a pass-oriented school that I know will throw the ball," says Chuck. "No question, they must have a proven history of throwing the ball or a new coaching staff with that kind of history. I dream of playing professional football someday and I can't get there by going to a school that wants to run the football."

Chuck seems sold at the moment on Florida State, Miami, Houston, Notre Dame and Alabama.

Shea Morenz (6-2, 195, 4.8) of San Angelo Central, Cory Pullig (6-3, 205, 4.6) of Deer Park and Doug Hughes (6-

3, 210, 4.6) of Cuero are throwers that are getting a tremendous look from the majors. Morenz threw for 1,800 yards a year ago and is looking at Houston and out-of-state schools. Pullig is a 4.0 student thinking pre-med. Houston and Oklahoma have Pullig's attention at the moment. Hughes has already qualified and is wide open as to his college visits.

We can't leave the throwers without mentioning Koy Detmer (6-0, 160, 4.8) of Mission. Yes, he's Ty's little brother and throws like him, too, going up top for 3,685 yards as a junior. Koy's size is a question, as well as the competition he faces. However, that's not stopping Texas, BYU and Houston from giving chase.

Throw in Arkansas' best in Mike Cherry (6-5, 200, 4.7) out of Texarkana, Ark. Yes, we are talking about Texas recruits but Arkansas' best at times get thrown in with Texas. With Notre Dame, UCLA, Houston, Nebraska and Arkansas all in the hunt, Cherry is worth a mention.

The best option type with a deadly arm comes from defending state 5A champ Aldine. Eric Gray (6-3, 190, 4.5) threw for 1,049 yards and ran for 1,495 including a record 233 yards in the state title game. Gray will have to overcome a turbulent summer. Caught in the middle of a gang-related incident, Gray was shot three times in the thigh and once in the calf. Amazingly, no major damage was done and he appears to be ready for his senior season.

"We think he will be okay," said Aldine Head Coach Bill Smith. "It's still a day-to-day rehabilitation. We will have some doubts until the season starts, but knowing how talented and determined Eric is, I think he will make it back."

Colorado, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Baylor hope so because they are the leaders at the moment for his college services.

Running backs—Unless you are Houston or BYU, you can't throw the ball all of the time. You still need that slashing, darting runner to tote the mail and move the chains. In traditional fashion, you will find some of the nation's best running backs in Texas.

You will get an argument as to who is the best in the state. If you are looking for a pure athletic speed back, sign Sherman native Sterling Boyd (5-11, 180, 4.4).

A more traditional back is Jeff Godley (5-11, 193, 4.5) of Arlington Sam Houston.

The number one fullback is Shawn Walters (6-0, 218, 4.6) of Arlington Lamar.

If it's that one back stallion you are looking for, cast your eyes toward Huntsville, where Edward Ordaz (6-0, 200, 4.6) teams with Clements for a dangerous combination.

Ordaz is the prototype run-and-shoot back, rushing for 1,092 yards a year ago while catching 53 passes for 589 yards. Ordaz loved Chuck Weatherspoon at Houston and wants to fill his shoes someday. Originally from Lawton, Okla., the general thinking is that Walters would love to return to Oklahoma as a Sooner.

Godley rushed for 2,564 yards in a banner junior year. A complete back that hasn't found anything he can't do while carrying a football.

"When you give Jeff Godley the ball, he's more dangerous than an acre of rattlesnakes," said Arlington Houston Head Coach Ken Ozee. "Great speed, size and enough strength to carry the ball 30 times a game. He gets better with every carry, too. He's a tough kid that can go inside and outside. An Emmitt Smith (Dallas Cowboys) type that can get you six points every time he touches the football."

Colorado loves that kind of talk because they are the early leader with Oklahoma, Nebraska, Miami and Florida State in pursuit.

Boyd doesn't have Godley's power and all-around game, but for pure speed you can't beat this Sherman native. A 4.3 best in the 40-yard dash and 10.2 100-meters time lead him to a 1,000-yard season. Boyd has a wide-open

mind towards recruiting outside of the state of Texas. He might look towards Nebraska and Oklahoma but admits a desire to head East. That puts Notre Dame, Florida and Florida State solidly in the picture.

Other Texas backs to watch include Kweli Thompson (5-11, 10, 4.5) of Houston Lamar who rushed for 1,585 yards and 22 TDs; Nathan Campbell (5-10, 180, 4.5)

of Houston

Alief Elsik who put together a 1,468 yard season; Paul Oatts (6-3, 210, 4.5) of Gainesville

and Brandell Jackson (5-11, 202, 4.36) of Brenham who hopes to draw interest from Oklahoma State, Nebraska, OU, Texas A&M, Houston, Notre Dame, and Texas.

Wide receivers — The best all around athlete in Texas just might be DB/WR Bobby Taylor of Longview, Texas. After 84 tackles, four interceptions, three blocked punts and 12 passes broken up, you would think he's a defensive back all the way.

However, after three kickoff returns for touchdowns and hands like glue, many college coaches are thinking All-American wide receiver. Taylor reminds college recruiters of Tennessee's all everything Carl Pickens who started out as a DB but now is strictly offense and looking at a multi-million dollar contract. All of college football is after this potential superstar.

Arlington Houston's Mike Adams (6-0, 180, 4.5) teams with Godley to form quite a one-two punch. A great open field runner, Adams lined up in a number of skill positions and managed over 1,000 yards in all-purpose yardage. This slotback is thinking Pitt, Houston, Miami, Florida State and Tennessee.

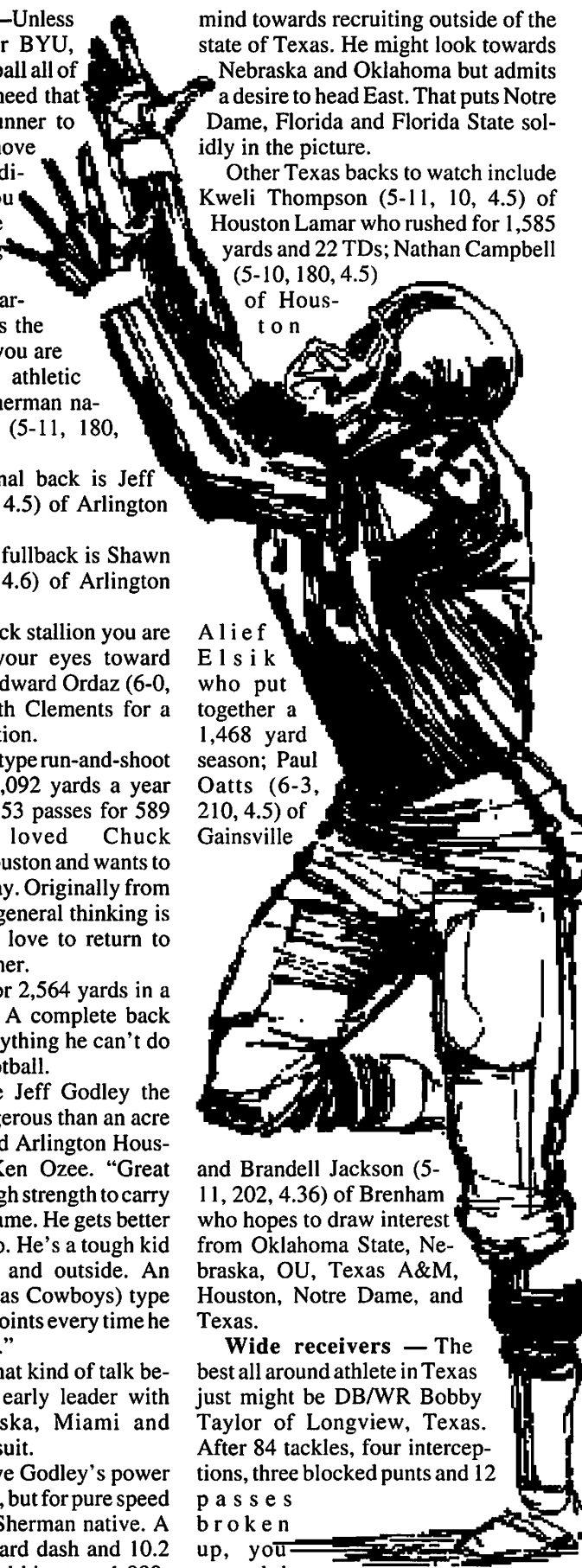
The best pure receiver in Texas is Mercury Hayes (6-0, 170, 4.5) of Houston Washington, who had 31 catches for 597 yards receiving a year ago, setting himself up as a national recruit. Other notable Texas receivers include Trency Clough (5-9, 175, 4.5) of Marshall who caught 59 passes for last year's Big School champions, averaging more than 20 yards a catch and Warren Dade (5-7, 150, 4.4) of Denison is the Class 4A 200 meter champ.

Michael Hendricks (6-5, 220, 4.7) of Baytown Sterling has that extra ingredient of speed which makes him a double threat at tight end. He drew attention first for his blocking ability but after pulling down 25 passes for 458 yards, college recruiters regard him as a dual threat. Look for Hendricks to stay in Texas.

Offensive linemen — It's not a great year for offensive linemen in Texas. The top two early are centers Calvin Collins (6-3, 258, 4.8) of Beaumont West Brook and K.C. Jones (6-3, 230, 4.9) of Midland Lee. Collins has Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Texas A&M on his mind while Jones is undecided.

Ronnie Price (6-6, 255, 5.2) of Deer Park, Danny Wilson (6-3, 265, 5.3) of Huntsville, Alvarado's Gann Brooks (6-8, 285, 5.6) and Dan Neal (6-2, 270, 5.0) of Cypress Creek are the best across the front.

Brooks and Neal may turn out to be the best of them all. Brooks is undecided, however, Neal has his eyes on Texas, Texas A&M, Oklahoma and Nebraska. Just like most of the talent at this position, they are diamonds in the rough and we will know more about these offensive linemen once the



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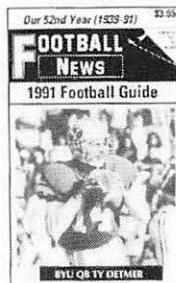
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season is done.

Defensive linemen — There is one giant that stands out on the defensive front — all 6-8, 295 pounds of him. Caesar O'Neal of Huntsville is a dominant defensive tackle that has come a long way with the desire to get better. O'Neal weighed in at 360 pounds his sophomore year and could only play a couple of plays before having to sit out for five to catch his breath. A vigorous weight program reduced his weight to 300 for his junior season and he responded with a dominating year.

"Caesar has awesome size to go along with 5.1 speed in the 40," says Huntsville Head Coach Joe Clements. "He's a great athlete who finished second in the state in the shot with a throw of 65-6. He's finally decided it's okay being big and gained some self-esteem. He's worked hard to get his body in shape and nobody whips him at the line of scrimmage. He's such a good athlete that he even kicks off for us!"

Colorado is the only visit that O'Neal has set at the moment, but he's still receiving 10 to 12 letters a day.

Ervin Briley (6-4, 250, 4.9) of Aldine combines great quickness with a 350-pound bench press. Baylor, TCU and Houston have his attention at the moment. Otis Grant (6-6, 245, 4.9) of Fort Bend Willowridge is another that will be recruited nationwide. Bruce Nowak (6-5, 258, 4.8) of Houston Northbrook specializes in rushing the passer. He's thinking about LSU, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Linebacker — The only linebacker to talk about early is Jim Brady (6-5, 200, 4.6) of Arlington Lamar. Brady is the only definite national linebacking recruit at the moment after roaming from sideline to sideline for 116 tackles. Brady's height gives him a great advantage in rushing the passer and he has enough agility to stick to backs coming out of the backfield. Brady carries a perfect 4.0 GPA and don't be surprised if Rice grabs this talent for academic success as well as his athleticism.

Chris Colon (6-3, 205, 4.5) is a strong safety who will grow into an outside linebacker. The rest of the 'backers in the state will come of age after the season.

Defensive backs — If you want a big-time defensive back that can cover on the corner or freelance at safety, recruit Sherrod Wyatt (6-2, 185, 4.5) of Dallas Carter. Wyatt snatched 12 enemy passes and returned three for

touchdowns. Sherman's Andre Williams (5-9, 170, 4.4) is a pure corner prospect that was involved in 113 tackles along with seven interceptions. David Garrett (6-1, 189, 4.4) of Beaumont West Brook is another with star quality after getting in over 100 tackles a year ago.

Kickers — Every year Texas puts out one of the top kickers in the country

and this year's sure bet is Ty Atteberry of Humble Kingwood who hit on 12 field goals, three coming from 40 yards or longer. Atteberry also managed to lead the district in punting.

Of course it's early and we will update Texas again later this season, but you can bet many of these same names will be at the top of the list of most major college recruiters. ■

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POOL^{AND} SPA PROFESSIONALS

Potential signees could provide boost for Nee's squad

By Mike Babcock

Despite all the problems associated with the disclosure that Tony Farmer and Jose Ramos violated NCAA extra-benefit rules by accepting low-interest automobile loans, Danny Nee remains optimistic about the future of his Nebraska basketball program.

That optimism got a boost over the summer, even though Nee can't comment about two reasons for the boost.

First, Erick Strickland, a highly regarded multi-sport athlete in metropolitan Omaha, announced he was leaning toward playing basketball in college and becoming a Cornhusker after his senior season at Bellevue West High School. Strickland, who also has received recruiting attention from the Nebraska football team, made the announcement at a media day for an all-star team of high school underclass-

men, which represented the state at a national tournament in Las Vegas.

The 6-foot-3 Strickland, a two-time football Super-State wide receiver, said he had "pretty much" decided not to play football his senior year at Bellevue West. Even so, "Coach (Tom) Osborne told me if I ever changed my mind, I have a scholarship," he said.

Strickland also earned Super-State recognition in basketball, averaging 26 points and 10 rebounds per game in leading Bellevue West to the state Class A tournament title.

Not long after the Nike-sponsored summer tournament in Las Vegas, Strickland's Valentino's/Nebraska teammate Andre Woolridge held a news conference at his high school, Omaha Benson, to announce his decision to sign a letter of intent with the

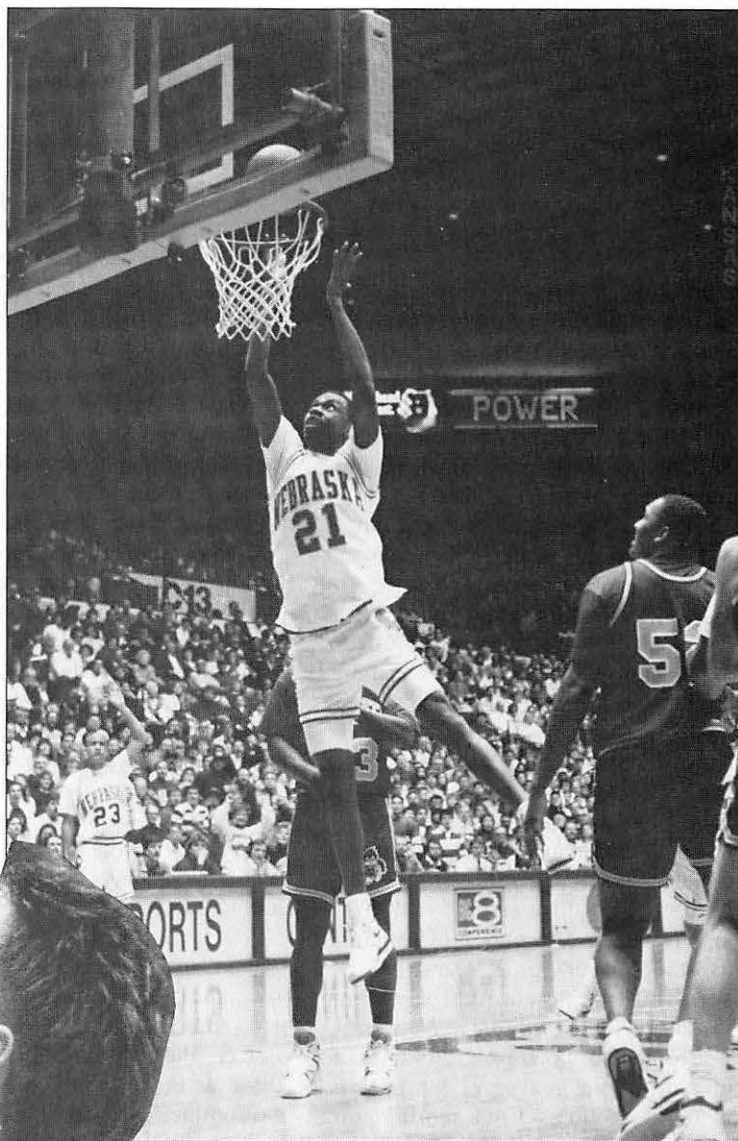
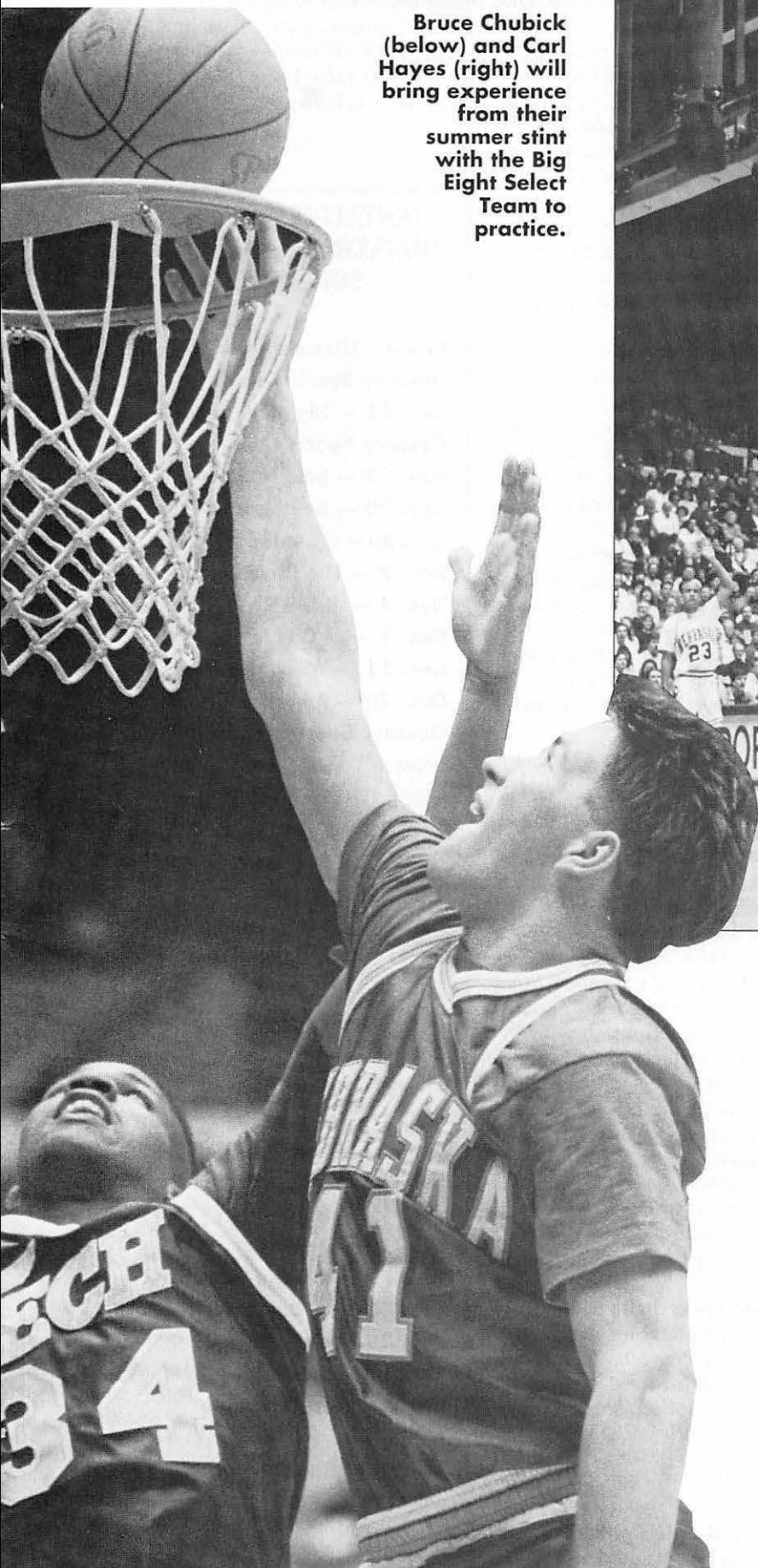
Cornhuskers in November. Woolridge, a Super-State guard as a junior, averaged 19 points per game during the Las Vegas tournament to help his team reach the final 16 with a record of 5-2.

At his news conference, Woolridge told reporters, "I came out as one of the top point guards in the nation, No. 2 or 3. But Coach Nee has been after me a long time. I re-



Nee could use Strickland and Woolridge to fill the vacated guard spots.

Bruce Chubick (below) and Carl Hayes (right) will bring experience from their summer stint with the Big Eight Select Team to practice.



ceived calls from a raft of coaches after Las Vegas. We were getting phone calls at 7 o'clock in the morning and at 12 midnight.

"But I was at Nebraska for a week practicing for Las Vegas, and I've grown to like the area and the arena."

The excessive recruiting attention quickly began to wear thin, which is the reason Woolridge decided to make an early announcement regarding his plans for college. "I got tired of the recruiting war," he said. "The glamor and gleam is nice, but I'd like to go back to a normal life. It seems like I've talked to almost every college or university in the nation."

"I considered Colorado, Kentucky, Arizona, Arizona State, Georgetown and Syracuse. I really considered Kentucky, and I liked Syracuse. But I would like to stay close to home, play for my home state and be close to my parents. I like the coaching style, the city of Lincoln and the coaching staff. The up-tempo style fits me like a glove."

Under NCAA rules, Nee cannot comment on the announcement by Woolridge. Coaches are prohibited from discussing recruits until after they

have signed letters of intent. Even so, there's little doubt Woolridge and Strickland would fit into Nee's plans. Both can play point guard, a position at which Nebraska has only one scholarship player, sophomore Jamar Johnson, who sat out last season after failing to meet freshman eligibility requirements under Prop 48.

Ramos' status remained uncertain in mid-August, but it appeared he was looking into the possibility of transferring to an NAIA school where he would be eligible immediately, regardless of the outcome of a due process hearing based on an internal investigation by Nebraska.

After the Cornhuskers chose not to sign a point guard during last season's recruiting, it was apparent getting Woolridge and Strickland would be the focus of this year's recruiting effort. More than once Nee indicated he didn't intend to offer a scholarship to a point guard just to have one.

Strickland's comments prior to the Las Vegas tournament influenced Woolridge's decision to pick Nebraska, as did the Cornhuskers' recruitment of Omaha South's Terrance Badgett last November. "I love to play with Erick and Terrance. We play pickup games together all the time," said the 6-2 Woolridge. "They are great players and should be there with me at Nebraska."

"I need to work on my defense to prepare for the next level, but I played well in Las Vegas. I'm a scoring point guard, but I also like to average eight or nine assists."

Woolridge averaged 26.4 points and 6.9 rebounds per game in leading Benson to the Class A state tournament.

Around the horn . . .

Badgett scored 25 points and pulled down nine rebounds to lead the South to a 106-103 victory in the annual Nebraska Coaches Association Nike All-Star game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Aug. 9.

Jason Glock, the Cornhuskers' other incoming freshman recruit, sprained his left ankle in the first quarter of the game, which drew 3,320 fans, and was unable to play in the second half.

Analyst Bob Gibbons rated Nebraska's recruiting class, which also included junior college transfers Derrick Chandler, Patrick Hawthorne and Michael Hughes, 24th in the nation.

Four other Big Eight teams made Gibbon's Top 50, including Kansas (2), Kansas State (13), Oklahoma State

(17), Colorado (20) and Oklahoma (32).

Cornhuskers Bruce Chubick and Carl Hayes were chosen to the Big Eight select team, which was scheduled to play a five-game exhibition series in Italy in August. The team was slated to assemble for three days of practice in Kansas City, Mo., on Aug. 14, then leave for Milan, Italy, on Aug. 17, returning on Aug. 25.

It was the fifth consecutive year the Big Eight has sent a men's basketball team abroad. Previous trips were to China, England and Czechoslovakia, Australia and Spain.

Select team players were chosen by conference coaches. Missouri's Norm Stewart was picked to coach the team.

Hayes and senior Dapreis Owens will be among 19 returning starters in the conference this season, according to the Big Eight Service Bureau's summer basketball preview.

Hayes is Nebraska's top returning scorer and rebounder, averaging 13.5 points and 5.3 rebounds per game last season. He ranks 27th on the Cornhuskers' career-scoring list with 799 points. Hayes needs 201 points to become Nebraska's 15th 1,000-point scorer.

Owens played in 31 games last season, including 15 as a starter. He averaged 5.6 points and 3.4 rebounds per game.

Eric Piatkowski played in the U.S. Olympic Festival in Los Angeles over the summer and was chosen to the all-tournament team. His North All-Stars won the Festival's gold medal.

The 6-6, 190-pound sophomore from Rapid City, S.D., averaged 10.9 points per game coming off the bench for Nebraska last season. Mike Thibault, coach of the CBA Omaha Racers, told Doug Thomas of the *Omaha World-Herald* regarding Piatkowski: "You don't compare players to Larry Bird. But his (Piatkowski's) style is similar. He has a long jump shot, is a good passer and has some body resemblance. I think he's going to be a terrific college player."

Big Eight basketball continues to gain national respect. Last season, the conference's Raycom television package was the highest-rated syndicated sports show in the country for the February 1991 ratings. This season, Big Eight games will follow Big East games on ESPN's "Big Monday" package.

In addition, the Big Eight set records for total and average attendance in 1990-

91, drawing a total of 1,391,658 fans in 125 games for an average of 11,133 per game. Conference attendance has exceeded 1,300,000 in three seasons, with the previous record being set in 1988-89 (1,331,612). ■

TENTATIVE 1991-92 HUSKER BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

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Nov. 11 — High Five America, Devaney Sports Center

Nov. 23 — Sam Houston State

Nov. 25 — Southern California

Nov. 30 — at Southern Utah State

Dec. 2 — The Citadel

Dec. 4 — at Michigan State

Dec. 7 — at Creighton

Dec. 11 — Wisconsin

Dec. 20 — Ameritas Classic, Devaney Sports Center (Nebraska, Texas A&M, Delaware State, Eastern Michigan)

Dec. 21 — Ameritas Classic

Dec. 30 — Wisconsin-Green Bay

Jan. 2 — at Toledo

Jan. 4 — Eastern Illinois

Jan. 11 — at Colorado

Jan. 18 — Missouri

Jan. 20 — Missouri-Kansas City

Jan. 25 — at Kansas

Jan. 27 — Oklahoma

Feb. 1 — Iowa State

Feb. 5 — Oklahoma State

Feb. 8 — at Kansas State

Feb. 17 — at Missouri

Feb. 19 — Kansas

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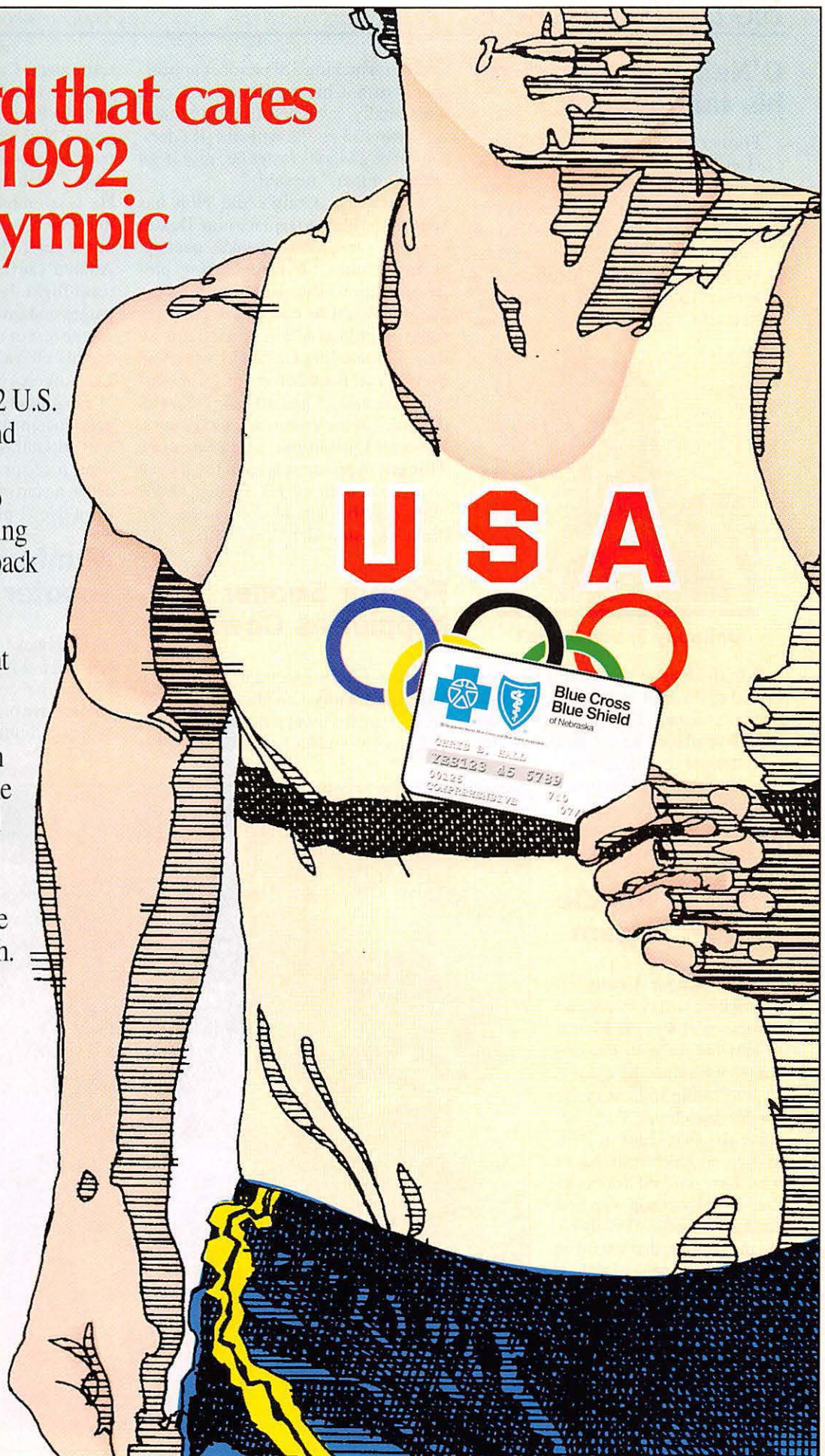


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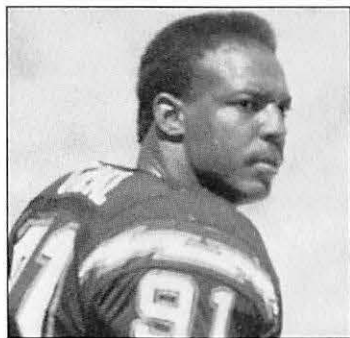


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O'Neil lets effort do his talking now

Former Oklahoma State All-American **Leslie O'Neil**, who has battled back from injuries to regain his all-star status at defensive end, says his days of speaking out are over. He'll instead let his efforts on the field be his mouthpiece. "I want to get the notoriety of a Lawrence Taylor or Derrick Thomas," O'Neil says. "They are perceived as the



Unhappy in San Diego?

best in the league. So what if I'm perceived as the best in San Diego? What does that mean? I've tried to be liked here. I've played hard and showed this team I want to win, but everyone says I talk too much and I'm too opinionated. Now, I'm at the point where I don't want to be liked."

Craig in middle of L.A. logjam

When **Roger Craig** left the relative safety of the San Francisco 49ers via Plan B to cast his lot with the Los Angeles Raiders, he created an interesting logjam in the Raider backfield. They became the first team in NFL history to have four backs who have rushed for more than 1,000 yards in a season and also played in a Pro Bowl. On the surface, that would be an embarrassment of riches, but Craig and Marcus Allen are both 31 and showing signs of age. Greg Bell is 29 and has taken his share of pounding. The other running back, some guy by the name of Bo Jackson, has focused his at-

tention on making a September appearance with the Chicago White Sox. Craig, incidentally, switched from his trademark No. 33 to 22 with the Raiders. "Number 22 looks faster because it's a lower number," he said.

Meanwhile, Craig's old club has been scrambling to replace him. Dexter Carter, last season's rookie backup, averaged only 1.6 yards during pre-season action. His slight build leaves many to doubt he can inherit the awesome workload Craig carried for so long — including Carter. "I wasn't an every down back before, as far as carrying the ball 25 and 30 times and I'm not going to be one now," Craig says. Former Oklahoma star **Spencer Tillman**, who has stayed in the league on the strength of his special teams play, may be part of a committee of backs that shoulder Craig's load.

Former Sooner happier as Cowboy

After suffering through last season, noseguard **Tony Casillas** was able to orchestrate his escape from the Atlanta Falcons by suddenly announcing his

retirement. Casillas, who was the second player taken in the 1986 draft behind Jackson but ahead of Jim Everett and O'Neil, had suffered through contract hassles and more with new Falcons Coach Jerry Glanville last year. He was embroiled in a long holdout that saw him miss the first four games of the year. Then he became ill prior to Atlanta's seventh game and missed the team flight. He was suspended for two games and saw action only as a reserve for the rest of the season before fracturing his elbow in Week 16 against the Los Angeles Rams.

He quickly retracted the retirement announcement when the Falcons traded him to Dallas. As a Cowboy, he has been a terror and has already nailed down a starting job ahead of the Cowboys' No. 1 pick Russell Maryland.

Munford trades scooter in splurge

Linebacker **Marc Munford**, a Plan B signee with Kansas City, and two fellow linebackers had to make a quick automotive purchase after Chief Coach Marty Schottenheimer banned motor



Plan B switched Craig from 'King of the Hill' in San Francisco to one of the many in L.A.



Casillas cried foul in Atlanta, so now he'll showcase his talent in Dallas.

car from Boulder, Colo. "I wanted to have my car here," he said. "I don't know my way around here at all. I figured it would be pretty expensive to have to take a cab everywhere I go." It is rumored Williams signed a three-year contract worth \$745,00.

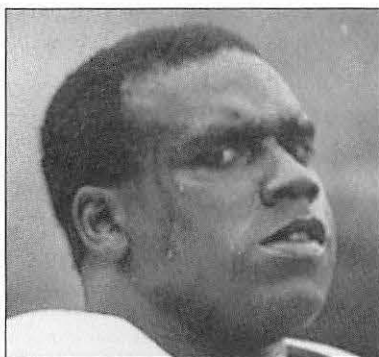
Other Big Eight News

After spending the spring playing for the New York/New Jersey Knights of the World League of American Football, former Sooner lineman **Caesar Rentie** is making a strong run at a backup spot on the Detroit Lions' roster. The Lions are the fourth NFL team for Rentie who has spent time with the Buffalo Bills, Chicago Bears and Indianapolis Colts... Jets' safety **Erik McMillan** and his father Ernie are the

scooters, the trio's first choice to get around during training camp. Munford joined with Chris Dunn and Tracy Rogers to "splurge" on a \$200 1973 pickup.

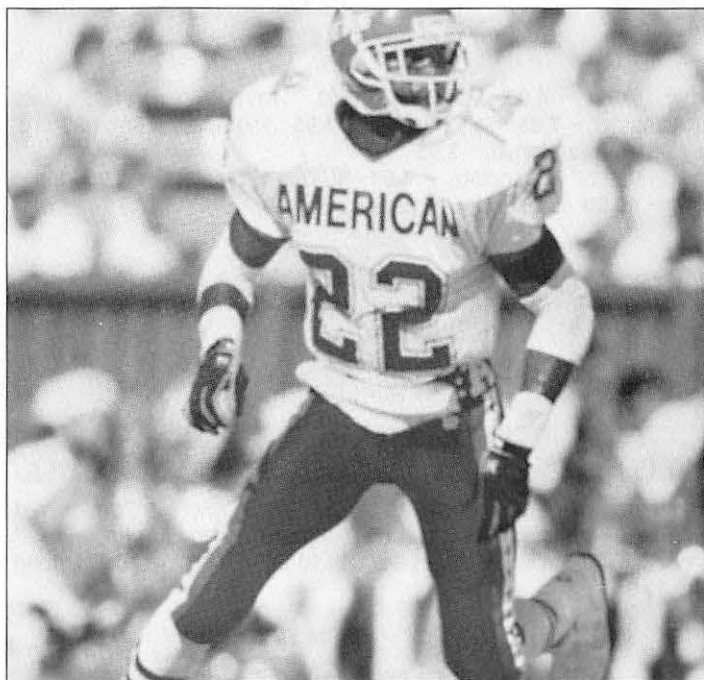
Injuries continue to follow Dykes

Former Oklahoma State All-American Hart Lee Dykes, the Big Eight's all-time leading receiver, saw his hopes for a breakthrough season come to a premature end when he suffered a broken right knee cap in the Patriots' loss at Phoenix in Week Three of the exhibition season. Dykes played in only 10 games last year after suffering an eye injury in an off-the-field altercation and was looking to regain the momentum that saw him lead the club in receiving as a rookie in 1989. Dykes had surgery on the knee and the Patriots still held out some hope their former No. 1 pick would be able to return at some point.



Cab fare sends Williams to signing

Alfred Williams, the Bengals' top pick after completing his career at Colorado, finally agreed to terms with the club one day before the first round of mandatory cuts were announced. Rather than fly directly to Cincinnati to make up for the lost time, Williams insisted on driving his



McMillan (above) has risen to the top in New York, but Manley (left) is just starting again in Phoenix.

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BIG EIGHT IN THE PROS

only father and son combination to be named to the Pro Bowl. Ernie was selected four times in his career as a tackle for the Cardinals, while Erik was chosen in 1988 and 1989. He also became the first Jet ever to be picked in his first two pro seasons.. Veteran **Dexter Manley** has apparently put his well-documented troubles behind him in his effort to make the Phoenix Cardinals this year. "I'm not going to canonize this guy, but he's working hard to get back where he was," said Cards' Coach



While Evans (above) made moves in the Cardinal lineup, Dykes (left) moved to the disabled list for the second-straight year.

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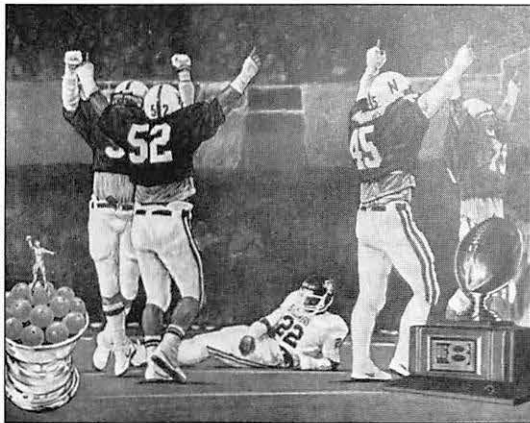
Joe Bugel. "He used to run a 4.4. Now, he's a 4.6. That's still big-time running. He showed up in shape and he's cleaned up all his vices... More news from the Cardinals' camp — former Sooner lineman **Scott Evans**, an eighth-round pick last year, has been moved to outside linebacker... Former Husker cornerback **Brian Davis** picked off three passes in the Seattle Seahawks' first three exhibition games, including two against the Rams. He had a total of five in his first four seasons (all with the Washington Redskins)... Rookie **Gene Williams** of Iowa State got a chance to start for the Miami Dolphins after All-Pro tackle **Richmond Webb** sustained a knee injury. **Adrian Cooper**, a fourth-round pick out of Oklahoma, was in a back-up tight end spot with the Pittsburgh Steelers... **Frank Blevins** (Oklahoma) and **Linzy Collins** (Missouri) did not survive the first round of cuts with the Green Bay Packers, while former Husker **Keith Neubert**'s bid with Green Bay was hampered by a concussion. He was shaping up as a special teams star before he was hurt... Joining the list of the young and the cut is last year's NCAA rushing leader **Gerald Hudson** of Oklahoma State who apparently was not quick enough to escape the ax that fell on him at the Minnesota Vikings' camp. Other Cowboys joining Hudson in the unemployment line are **Cecil Wilson**, former fullback for Seattle, **Curtis Mayfield** of the Broncos and much traveled Colts' quarterback **Rusty Hilger**... Former Cyclone cornerback **Marcus Robertson** was splitting time between cornerback and safety with the Houston Oilers and didn't hurt his chances by scooping up a blocked kick and running for a touchdown in Houston's annual big battle with the Dallas Cowboys... Former Husker safety **Reggie Cooper** was cut by the Cowboys after trying to catch on as a linebacker. Other Huskers who did not survive the first visit by the dreaded "Turk" were **Kent Wells** (49ers), **Le Andre Anderson** (Chargers), **Pat Tyrance** (Rams), **Richard Bell** (Chiefs) and **Tim Rother** (Raiders)... Former Colorado punter **Tom Rouen** lost his battle to unseat Sean Landetta for the Giants job.

All photos with the exception of Scott Evans, are the property of Pro Set: The Official Photo of the NFL. ■

Huskers Illustrated

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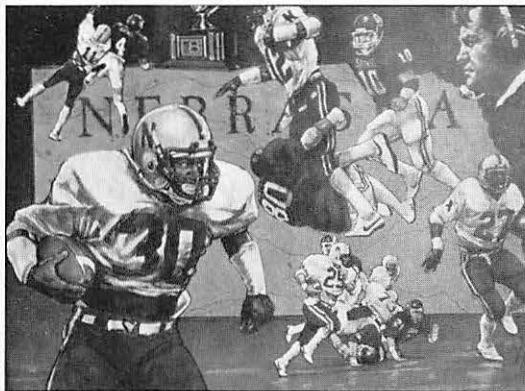
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It's about that time of year when college football fans need become acquainted with the new rules for the upcoming games. There is nothing more discouraging to a passionate football fan than to be blindsided by an official's ruling that you didn't know existed. So let's get prepared by looking at the rule changes for this year.

They Don't Look the Same

Field goal accuracy will probably decrease dramatically in 1991. No, there is no advance forecast for college football games that calls for tricky crosswinds. Instead, the width between the goal posts has been reduced by nearly 25 percent.

In fact, the distance from one upright to the other now equals the NFL standard of 18' 6". Good luck to those courageous little sidewinders on their field goal and extra point attempts.

No Fair Dropping It

It's fourth-and-two at the Huskers' 15-yard line and Colorado is trailing by

four with 48 seconds left in the game.

The Colorado fullback runs up the middle and trips as he approaches the line of scrimmage. Knowing that he wouldn't make a first down, he fumbles the ball forward to the 9-yard line, where his tight end recovers. Is it a first-and-goal?

No. The 1991 NCAA Regulations say the play ends at the spot of a fourth-down fumble if it is recovered downfield by an offensive player other than the fumbler. In previous years, the NCAA only outlawed this type of "fourth-down fumble" if it took place inside the opponent's five-yard line. Now it doesn't matter where the ball is dropped. This much needed rule lessens the possibility of a team making such a desperate and unfair move when they are about to fail during a fourth-down play.

Decision, Decisions, Decisions

When an opposing team kicks off and the ball goes out of bounds untouched, the receiving team now has three options

instead of two. Previously they could either choose to begin their offensive series at the yard line where the ball went out of bounds, or could force their opponents to re-kick from five yards beyond their 35-yard line.

This year, a third choice allows the receiving team to begin its offensive series 30 yards from where the ball was kicked. So, if the opposing team kicked off from its 35-yard line and the ball went out of bounds, the receiving team can start play on its own 35-yard line (30 yards from the spot of the kick). The NFL has a similar option.

By the way, if a kickoff is touched by the receiving team and then goes out of bounds, the next play begins at the inbounds spot — no decision has to be made.

Nip It In the Bud

Many fights during a college football game result from a player taunting an opponent. New legislation penalizes a player who provokes a conflict with an opposing player through verbal means or by gesturing, such as pointing a finger toward him.

"Unsportsmanlike conduct" will also be called if a player incites the spectators in any way. Is it possible the onfield actions of players from a certain university in south Florida were instrumental in the decisions to enact this rule?

Psssst, Hey Ref

Who can forget the famous "Fumblerooski" plays when a lineman picks up an intentionally dropped ball and runs for long yardage? It usually fools everyone — the players, coaches, spectators, TV cameramen and broadcasters.

Even officials frequently miss the play. That won't happen anymore. Now, if a team plans for a lineman to pick up a loose ball near the center, they must first notify an official the play is coming next. Look for head coaches to monitor all conversations their counterparts have with the zebras during the game. It might be a tip-off the "Fumblerooski" is coming.

Now you won't be caught off guard during the 1991 college football season. Get ready to impress your companions at the next Husker game when a situation arises that involves one of these new rules.

Barry Dreayer is the president and founder of TeachMeSports, an Atlanta-based company that conducts seminars on how to be an informed spectator of basketball, football and baseball. For more information, call 404/973-3442. ■

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VIEW FROM SOUTH STADIUM

Coach:

I read in the August issue of *HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED* that the Huskers and Kansas State were close to signing an agreement to play next year's game in Tokyo. Has this been finalized? If so, will this be too tough of a road game with the Orange Bowl less than a month away? It would be a shame to have a player hurt against Kansas State and not be able to play in a national championship game. Does this concern you?
William Donovan
Milwaukee, Wis.

William: We are scheduled to play Kansas State in Tokyo on Dec. 6, 1992. Your concern about the chance of injuries so close to a bowl game is well taken, but we felt other factors outweighed that concern.

Economically we will make more money by playing the game in Tokyo than in Manhattan and we believe it will be a chance of a lifetime cultural experience for our players.

Coach:

With the new alliance formed be-

tween the Orange, Cotton, Sugar and Fiesta Bowls over the past couple of months, what do you think that will do to the future of college football? Is this a step toward a college football playoff system?

Frank Jones
Lincoln, Neb.

Frank: I believe the new alliance formed between the bowls is a step toward a playoff system. I believe this alliance will force people to look at a playoff system more seriously. Hopefully it will be a positive step toward the future of college football.

Coach:

With Washington and Arizona State on the 1991 schedule, the slate certainly has a Pacific 10 flare. Do you feel it is better to play "name" teams rather than unknowns like Northern Illinois or Utah State? I also noticed the Washington game will be at night. Would you rather play night games like last year's contest against Baylor?

Tim O'Neil
San Francisco, Calif.

Tim: As a coach, every game is important whether it is Utah State or Washington. We do feel our nonconference schedule is good and Pac 10-foes Washington and Arizona State certainly will make it exciting.

Some games are played at night because of television, which is always exciting for our team and fans. We enjoy playing night games as well as day games, but we don't favor one over the other.

Coach:

As a Husker fan living in Colorado, I can tell you how bad I want my Huskers to beat the Buffs this season. With all of the things that have happened over the past two or three seasons, do you feel Nebraska now has a stronger rivalry with Colorado than with Oklahoma? It seems to me the Oklahoma-Nebraska series has always been one of mutual respect and good sportsmanship and that doesn't seem to be the case with Colorado. It seems to be a street fight every time a Husker fan, player or coach has to venture to Folsom Field. Does the overall atmosphere at Boulder bother you or the team?

Gary Tullis
Denver, Colo.

Gary: We do have a very competitive series with both Oklahoma and Colorado. You are right about our rivalry with OU in that it has been a series of mutual respect and good sportsmanship. We can't control the atmosphere or attitude toward us when playing a game on the road. Our philosophy is to respect each opponent and play as competitively as we can.

I believe in motivating players to play as hard as they can and in a positive way that the team, University of Nebraska, the state of Nebraska and fans can feel good about. Hopefully, our players will develop the focus, character and discipline that will win football games as well as help them later in life, instead of a win at all cost attitude.

Thanks for your support and cheer hard when we travel to Boulder.

If you have a question for Coach Tom Osborne, address it to View from South Stadium, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb., 68501. ■

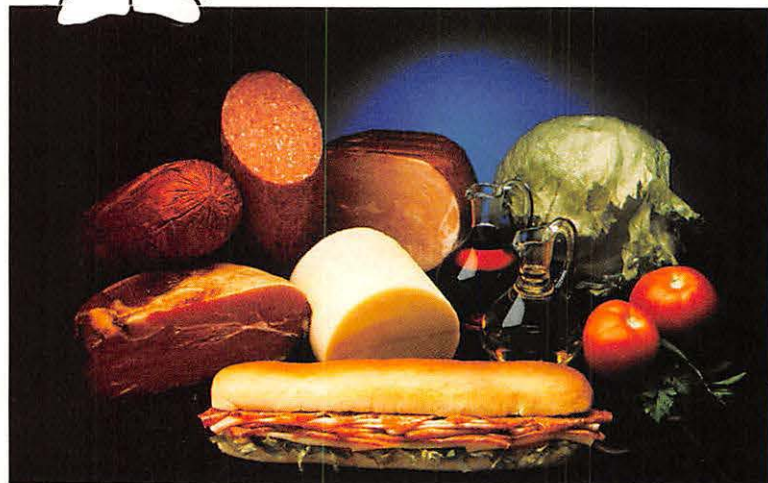
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